

# Disability Now

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*Us in a Bus* is a new project bringing activities to Surrey hospital residents. At the launch, at the Royal Earlswood Hospital in Surrey, project co-ordinator Marianne Hecker (right) and Dennis Mathews try out some balls. The scheme, run by The Spastics Society, is jointly funded by Mencap and local health authorities.

JANE SWEET

## Crisis at Independent Living Fund

New awards from the Independent Living Fund may be cut by two thirds this year following talks between the trustees and the Government over the fund's cash crisis.

Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, offered £8 million for new awards after trustees warned that this year's budget of £24 million – more than double last year's – had already been committed and argued strongly for extra funds.

But the extra money comes on condition that new awards are limited, so trustees have temporarily suspended the fund to work out new arrangements.

The new money was announced in Parliament after Labour MP Alf Morris introduced an amendment to the Social Security Bill giving the ILF an extra £30 million. The amendment was later withdrawn.

Mr Scott argued that the fund was making awards to people it was not originally intended for.

ILF trustee Pauline Thompson estimates the fund will only

be able to help about 2,500 people this year, about one in three of the applicants who would normally have been successful.

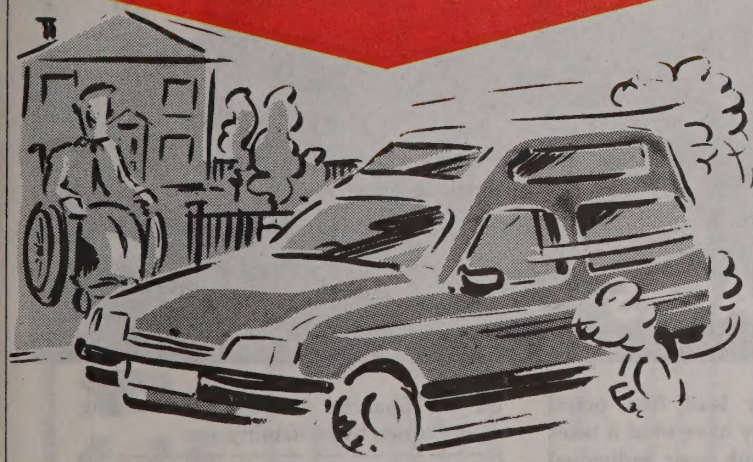
The new limits will not affect people already getting awards, or those who applied before 9 April and were visited by a social worker.

She said the fund was serving people who should be the responsibility of local authorities.

"It is true that we are making awards for people the fund was not envisaged for," she said. "As well as helping people who are really on the edges of residential care, we have exposed a need for people to have cash help."

The ILF has helped over 4,000 people since it was set up in April 1988, replacing Domestic Assistance Addition, but only 250-400 people were expected to apply in the first year.

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## Community care cuts likely

Many local authorities say they cannot afford to implement new community care schemes and may have to cut existing services to do so.

This is the view of 75 per cent of social services departments in a new survey by the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) and BBC radio.

Councils fear that money from the national social security budget will not be earmarked for community care schemes.

ADSS President John Rea Price described the survey's findings as "a worrying picture". "Without adequate central government assistance, next year's community care will be paid for by cuts in this year's community care: increased home help charges, the transfer of homes to the independent sector and reduced grants for sheltered housing and other developments".

Continued on page 4

## Money for residents

Elderly and disabled people in residential and nursing homes will get more Income Support from this August, but care homes and local authorities fear this will not prevent evictions.

People in residential homes will get an extra £5 per week, those in nursing homes an extra £10 per week, and people in hospices an extra £15 per week.

Secretary of State for Social Security Tony Newton announced the changes in Parliament on 28 March. They are a response to a Tory backbench revolt calling for money to be given to residents to prevent eviction if they could not meet care home fees (*DN* April).

But care homes fear the money is still not enough. Shortfalls between income support and care home fees average £30 per week.

A group of voluntary agencies, including Age Concern and the Alzheimer's Disease Society, are "deeply concerned" about people who cannot meet the shortfall. They said: "Residents have no resources of their own at



Tony Newton: responded

all and may have nowhere to turn for help. Increasing numbers of people are now being faced with eviction."

Tony Newton also introduced an amendment allowing the Government to "take into account" the amount different care homes charge when it sets income support limits.

This could be a big help to local authorities who will have to meet any shortfall for people admitted to homes after April next year.

Peter Westland, Under Secretary of Social Services at

Continued on page 2



# Budget gain for blind people and charities

Blind people and charities are among the main beneficiaries of John Major's first budget in March.

Charities could gain up to £50 million a year, according to Michael Brophy, director of the Charities Aid Foundation. The new tax rules for charities include:

- Gift Aid, which from 1 October will allow tax relief on gifts of between £600 and £5 million to charities from individuals or companies.
- The amount people can give under the Give-as-You-Earn (GAYE) payroll deduction scheme is increased from £40 to £50 per month.
- The Inland Revenue has issued new guidance on charitable covenants.
- Medical equipment bought by donations will not be liable for VAT.

Richard Brewster, marketing director of the Spastics Society, said: "We are optimistic that the Gift Aid Scheme will encourage better-off individuals and large sponsors to come forward."

The additional tax allowance for blind people is doubled to £1,080. Ian Bruce, director-general of the RNIB commented: "The RNIB is delighted with the increase in the tax allowance but this is no help to the majority of blind people who are

too poor to pay income tax."

He said disability benefits should be increased.

People paying their own fees in private and voluntary sector care homes have also received a boost from the Budget. Their savings threshold for housing benefit claims has been raised from £8,000 to £16,000.

Some self-paying residents will be able to meet their fees for much longer without running down their savings because, unlike income support, housing benefit does not have a fixed ceiling. (Residents on income support are not eligible for housing benefit).

## Fund change

The Government has changed Social Fund guidelines to sidestep February's High Court ruling that ministers were going too far in ordering local offices to stay within fixed budgets.

Under Nicholas Scott's amendment to the Social Security Bill in March, the Secretary of State can now make such orders.

Claimants who have been refused awards may be entitled to a review. Advice leaflets are in social security offices and citizens' advice bureaux.

Next year's Social Fund budget has been increased by £10 million to £215 million.



Rosemary Hill from Downs Barn, Milton Keynes, is all set for the London Marathon. Report next month. DAILY TELEGRAPH

## Money for residents

*Continued from page 1*  
the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, welcomed this commitment to look at regional variations, but said it remained to be seen if any practical changes would be made.

David Johnson, social policy officer of the Association of London Authorities, a group of Labour boroughs, said the shortfall for all the London

boroughs' homes in August, after the uprating, will be almost £25m, growing to £107m by March 1992.

Tory MP David Price argued that health authorities should be allowed to "top up" fees before April next year to meet the full cost as they do now for people in residential care.

Tony Newton also promised to start a study into the true cost of running care homes.

# Student loans fear unabated

As the controversy over student loans continues, the Government has announced more support for disabled students.

But the issue of repaying the top-up loans of up to £460 a year remains unsettled.

The package, announced last month, includes:

- raising the maximum for disabled students' allowance from £765 to £1,000
- introducing a personal helpers' allowance up to a maximum of £4,000 a year for, say, a sign interpreter for deaf people
- introducing a special equipment allowance up to a maximum of £3,000 spread over the whole course.

At the moment, repayments are to begin when students start earning 85 per cent of the national average wage.

But following a revolt in the House of Lords, the Government has added an amendment to the Education (Student Loans) Bill allowing Education Secretary John MacGregor to make separate conditions for repayment "as he considers appropriate" for disabled students.

A spokesman for the Education Department would not say what these special conditions might be.



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## Train to be a manager

A unique leadership and management training scheme for disabled people has been launched by management consultants The Coverdale Organisation in association with Midland Bank.

Initially it will offer three disabled people the chance to plan and carry through, free of charge, a programme covering leadership, teamwork and negotiation skills using Coverdale courses supplemented by others.

Candidates for this year's Brisenden Bursaries (named after writer Simon Brisenden who contributed to the plan but died last year) will be selected by a panel that includes two disabled people, William Buchanan, chairman of the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, and Stephen Duckworth, managing director of Disability Matters, which runs disability awareness courses.

The panel will be looking for candidates who can benefit from the programme and pass on their new skills to others.

Stephen Duckworth comments: "This unique opportunity provided by the private sector is a new approach to promoting our social and economic integration. In a period where employers are seeking to employ more disabled people, this is a chance you should not miss."

For an application form (also in braille, large print or audio tape), contact Ruth Greenwood, The Coverdale Organisation, tel: 071-925 0099. Closing date is 30 June.

● The Spastics Society now has a draft scheme for its "fast-track" management training programme (DN December).



"I always wanted to be appreciated for my head but I never was," said Tibor Ianko (left), one of 57 disabled students receiving cash awards in March from Lord Snowdon (right). The special award went to Donna McGrath, 19, who raises disability awareness and advises Wolverhampton Council on access matters.

## Housing needs ignored

Many disabled people are living in unsuitable accommodation because most authorities are ignorant of their housing needs, says a new report by housing charity Shelter.

It criticises the Government's White Paper *Caring for People* for not tackling elderly and disabled people's housing.

"The Government's community care policy is nonsense if it ignores the housing needs of disabled people," said the author Jenny Morris.

Only three of the 21 housing departments surveyed had a written policy on disabled people's housing needs or could say how many households on their waiting list needed wheelchair or mobility housing.

"Residential care is still con-

sidered as inevitable for many disabled people," says the report.

It warns that small "special needs" housing associations are being squeezed out and larger ones do not consider disabled people's needs.

The report urges the Government to encourage local authorities to build more adapted housing. It recommends planning and monitoring groups to advise housing and social service departments.

*Our Homes, Our Rights from Shelter, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9HU, tel: (071) 253 0202. £2.50 individuals, £3.50 institutions plus 50p p&sp.*

## Agency funds examined

Projects and support groups for disabled people are coming under scrutiny as the Government seeks to get value for money from its £2 billion annual funding of the voluntary sector.

Some agencies fear that their independence may be at risk following a Government report on how they are funded.

The report stipulates that "Government financial support for voluntary bodies should help to achieve the overall policies of departments".

But David Waddington, the Home Secretary, has pledged to encourage organisations "which can achieve a direct practical effect in assisting disabled people".

The emphasis on efficiency is seen as a clear indication that the Government expects voluntary agencies to play a large role in community care. Departments are asked to "look actively at the scope for using voluntary bodies as agents to deliver services which are currently provided by statutory authorities".

Voluntary agencies are criticised for not doing enough to

find out if they are meeting their customers' needs.

Also, money often goes on a "hotch potch" of grants because departments don't have a clear idea of their objectives.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation is one of several agencies who are concerned that closer liaison with the Government could affect their campaigning.

RADAR gets a £225,000 grant from the Government as well as individual project funding. Bert Massie, director of RADAR, said he welcomed any initiative to improve efficiency. But, he said, RADAR would be "examining the report's implications very seriously".

Disability Scotland gets £230,000 a year from the Government and its director, David Dunsmuir, welcomes the report.

But he warns that small agencies could find their paperwork mounting as they seek to justify their spending.

*Efficiency Scrutiny of Government Funding of the Voluntary Sector, HMSO, £10.95, tel: 071 873 9090.*

## Disabled children can sue

A rush of compensation claims is expected after a change in legal aid rules allowing children who are brain-damaged, or injured in road accidents or by drugs, to sue in their own right.

Children will be assessed for aid on the basis of their own income and not their parents'.

Previously, parents earning over £15,000 a year were ineligible and were often dissuaded

from taking action.

But health authorities are warning that they cannot afford more cases to come to court. A brain-damaged girl from Barnet, aged eight, won £850,000 in March.

In January, the Government made health authorities liable for medical negligence and gave them one-off payments to help with extra costs.



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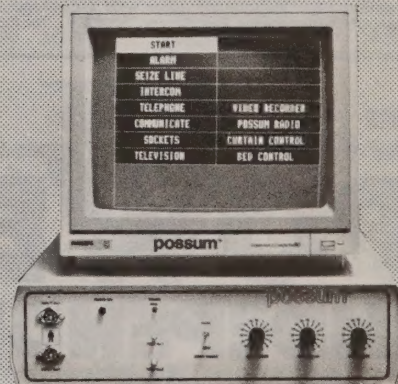
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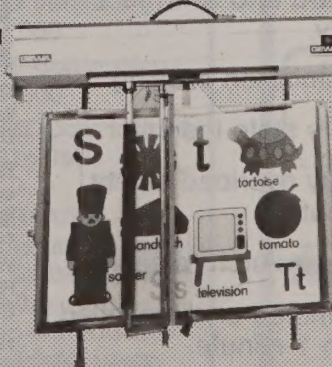
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## IN PARLIAMENT

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Social Security Bill****Severe Disability Allowance.**

On 3 April Alf Morris (Lab) moved the second reading of

clause 10 guaranteeing the automatic reinstatement of Severe Disability Allowance (SDA) to young people who received it before starting a youth training course but, on completing the course, are unable to find a job.

Mr Morris said the current regulations required a complex reassessment of eligibility to be made at the end of a training course. This "actively discourages young people with disabilities from entering Youth Training Schemes."

Quoting the support of The Spastics Society and Barnardo's,

Mr Morris said that clause 10 would provide a "safety net" for young people in training.

He added that it would cost the Government very little in the long term because training might lead to jobs and allow young people to come off social security.

In response, Minister for Social Security, Nicholas Scott, emphasised that SDA was paid to people who were "incapable of work".

"To make it payable to people who were capable of work, on the grounds that they had failed to find suitable employment, would introduce an entirely new principle in the conditions for benefit."

Mr Morris withdrew the clause and hopes to raise it again in the House of Lords.

**Earnings Related Invalidity Pension.** Paul Flynn (Lab) moved a counter amendment to remove clause 4, which seeks to abolish the ERIP.

According to Nicholas Scott, this benefit is unnecessary because 60 per cent of people with long term illnesses receive sick pay from their employers.

However, Mr Flynn disputes the Minister's claim.

He said that when long term sick pay is paid, it is limited in its amount and its duration and only 12 per cent of schemes provide full basic pay. Even in the public sector two out of three schemes impose a time limit.

At the close of this third reading of the Social Security Bill, Clare Short (Lab) summed up the feelings of the Opposition. "We are deeply unhappy with the disability package ... the pretence is that lots of new money has been found. It is a cosmetic package, not an enlargement of resources to look after people with disabilities and help them to be independent and self-reliant, as many wish to be."

Sir George Young (Con) countered this by insisting that the Bill would provide help for "many thousands of people".

**Disability Employment Credit**

On 2 April Ian Taylor (Con) asked Nicholas Scott about his proposals to help people who are partially incapable of work.

Mr Scott said that from April 1992 a new benefit would be created for this group. To be known as the Disability Employment Credit, it will be "aimed specifically at helping disabled people to support themselves in work".

Alf Morris said the Government was merely trying to save £10 million and asked the Minister why people with disabilities should view this gesture as maganimous.

**Quota scheme**

On 21 March Bob Wareing (Lab) asked Richard Luce, minister responsible for the civil service, about his plans to encourage government departments to stick to the three per cent quota system for employing disabled people.

Mr Luce said that five departments were above the quota and four had reached a figure of 2.5 per cent. Overall, 1.3 per cent of civil service employees were registered disabled people.

Mr Luce said this was higher than the figure for the national workforce.

A revised code of practice on employing disabled people would be published "shortly".

In a separate question, Jack Ashley (Lab), asked Tim Eggar (Con) what percentage of employers with over 20 employees had fulfilled their quota of disabled workers in the past five years.

Mr Eggar supplied a list of statistics which appeared to show that there had been a drop of 5.3

per cent in the number of employers meeting the quota.

**House of Commons toilets**

On 5 April Gavin Strang (Lab) asked Sir Geoffrey Howe to list the number of toilets provided in the House. He replied that there were 55 toilets for men, 34 for women, and only 1 for disabled people.

## HOUSE OF LORDS

**NHS and community care**

At its second reading, Conservative peers supported Opposition demands for rigorous trials of the measures to be introduced by the NHS and Community Care Bill.

Lord Ennals, Labour's health spokesman, said: "No businessman in his right mind would market a product which had not been tried and tested".

Lord Carr of Hadley (Con) suggested setting up pilot schemes in 20 hospitals and 50 GP practices around the country.

Baroness Masham of Ilton (Independent) said there were problems with the current system of providing incontinence aids that the Bill failed to address. She cited one case where a parent had been forced to choose between supplying her daughter with incontinence pads or giving her a holiday.

Baroness Masham outlined her strategy for incontinence provision. She recommended appointing special incontinence advisers; establishing a system to provide a regular and adequate supply of incontinence aids; giving reasonable access to urodynamic clinics; and identifying consultants and physiotherapists who have a special interest in incontinence.

The bill now enters its committee stage where peers will attempt to amend it.

Antoinette Jordan

**Community care cuts**

Continued from page 1

One third of local authorities in the ADSS survey say they have already cut or abandoned services because of the poll tax.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said "adequate" funding would be made available.

The Department of the Environment has calculated what authorities should expect to spend on social services known as the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA). Over half of local authorities have set budgets which are 10 per cent above it.

The ADSS survey is available free from the social services division of the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport, Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3XE, tel: (061) 474 7896.

● According to a survey, from the London Research Centre, sponsored by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Association of County Councils, home care services are already at risk because of underfunding. Eleven out of 25 boroughs have reduced meals on wheels services in the last decade.

The LRC, Parliament House, 81 Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SZ, £20.00, tel: (071) 735 4520.



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## IN BRIEF

### Charity on TV



Nikki Gardner, a young woman with cerebral palsy, is the subject of a Spastics Society fundraising advertisement which is being shown on Granada television for four weeks. The 30-second ad shows Nikki becoming more active as the sound of falling coins speeds up.

The advertisement will show a telephone number for making donations, and The Spastics Society has commissioned research to find out how effective it is in raising money and improving the society's image.

The ad follows the relaxation by the Independent Broadcasting Authority of the rules for charity advertising last year, so that charities may now fundraise on television.

### Power politics

Mike Devenney, who is deaf and the only disabled social services chairman in Britain, is to stand in the local council elections on 3 May in Islington's Bunhill ward, after being deselected for the Highbury ward (DN February). He is also on a shortlist of seven to stand for Parliament at the next election in the Ealing and Acton constituency.

### Church action

A new study pack on mental handicap by Hand in Hand, a group of Christian organisations including Cause for Concern and Scripture Union, has been launched. The pack includes a cassette, Bible studies and booklets. Church Action on Disability (CHAD) has also produced a study pack on disability with a cassette and Bible studies.

*The Christian Awareness Pack: Mental Handicap* is available from Causeway, PO Box 351, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 7AL. £6.25. Church Action on Disability study pack from Charisma Cottage, Drewsteignton, Exeter EX6 6QR. £6.50.

### Corrections

The address of the Gardening for Disabled Trust, omitted from our gardening feature, is Mrs Seblin, Hayes Farmhouse, Hayes Lane, Peasmarsh, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 6XR, tel: (0424) 882345.

To clarify the price quoted in our Virgin/Threshold article: a Threshold fly-drive holiday in Florida costs from £329 return, including the car. A two-week holiday including accommodation costs from £649. There is a \$25 per week charge on a hand-controlled car, which Threshold are trying to get removed by the summer.

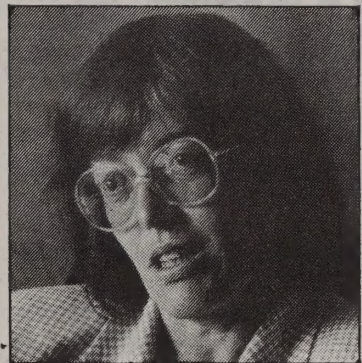
# Fight for "own clothes" begins

Nursing and disability organisations have criticised the "shoddy" clothing provided for people in care homes.

"We deny the dignity and humanity of elderly and mentally handicapped people if we do not let them wear their own clothes," said Christine Hancock, General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing.

She was speaking last month at the launch of a report by the RCN, the Disabled Living Foundation and the King's Fund, a charity which promotes good health care practice.

*Clothing: a Quality Issue*, recommends new systems for letting people choose their clothes



Christine Hancock: heading the fight for dignity.

NURSING STANDARD

and gives guidelines on laundry, flammability, and labelling.

Ginny Jenkins, Clothing and Footwear advisor at the DLF, and coordinator of the study, said: "In a large amount of health authorities people do not even wear their own knickers."

The Government is financing distribution of the report.

In Parliament last month Health Minister Roger Freeman urged health authorities to make it easier for care home residents to wear their own clothes.

His department is to look at ways to make NHS shoes more fashionable, and investigate establishing guidelines for funding 22 UK workshops which design and make clothes for disabled people.

*The report Clothing: a Quality Issue (free) and The Clothes in Question, a new book by Ginny Jenkins (£5.50), both from the Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, tel: 071 289 6111. At Home in Your Own Clothes, a new RCN video for health professionals, from Healthcare Productions Ltd, 116 Cleveland St, London W1P 5DN, tel: 071-383 2222. £25.72 to RCN members, £29.47 to non-members.*

## More funding for rides

London Dial-a-Ride will get a £1 million funding increase from the Government this year, bringing the subsidy to £8.27 million.

Keith Armstrong, chair of the London Dial-a-Ride Users Association, which has just published a report on the subject, commented: "We welcome the

extra funding but there is still a long way to go for users to achieve the same transport standards as able-bodied people."

*Efficiency in London Dial-a-Rides, £3 plus 50p p&sp from the LDaRU, St Margaret's, 25 Leighton Road, London NW5 2QD.*



Acting up. Actors Tom Conti and Nerys Hughes at the launch of a new course, entitled mental handicap: changing perspectives. Contact the Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, tel: (0908) 652247.

## Brent goes for 3% quota

Brent council in London is making new efforts to fulfil its statutory three per cent employment quota of disabled people.

Jobseekers who enrol at Brent Jobsearch, an employment agency solely for disabled people, will be matched to vacancies.

People from outside the borough can also use the service.

Labour-controlled Brent is following the example of Lambeth council, which reached the quota in 1986 by initially advertising only for disabled people.

Brent has learnt from Lambeth's example. "They were often left with posts unfilled," said Brent's disability advisor

Mike Higgins. "We want to avoid embarrassing situations".

Anyone recommended for a council post by Brent Jobsearch who meets the requirements for the job will automatically be interviewed, along with any able-bodied applicants.

According to the Employment Department's *Gazette*, in May last year 1.5 per cent of Brent's employees were disabled. Mike Higgins estimates the figure is now 2 per cent of the 10,000 full-time post equivalents.

Brent Jobsearch, 3-7 Lincoln Parade, Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, HA9 8UA, tel: 081 908 4433.

## THE DISCREET CONVERSION

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## Parents get guarantee of "safe sex"

Trials are underway of a new technique which can guarantee the sex of a baby and may reduce the incidence of disabling and fatal disorders.

Mothers who transmit disorders through the male line normally have to wait 8-10 weeks before finding out the sex of their baby. Doctors say the new tech-

nique will help to ensure these mothers will have a baby girl *before* the pregnancy starts.

An embryo is created in the laboratory by fertilising a woman's egg with her partner's sperm. By taking a single cell from this after only three days, doctors say they can determine the embryo's sex.

If the embryo is female it is transferred to the womb. If it is male the woman can opt to proceed no further.

Revealed in the science magazine *Nature*, the new technique has been pioneered by Robert

Winston, professor of fertility studies at Hammersmith hospital in West London and Dr Alan Handyside, senior lecturer in embryology at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Two women who participated in the trials are expecting baby girls in August.

Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, a progressively disabling condition which can be fatal, is carried by mothers and passed to boys.

Mrs Debbie Sharp of Surrey is a carrier of Duchenne's and has a three year old girl, Emily. Know-

ing the risk she took by having boys, Mrs Sharp has had three abortions. She is waiting to see if the technique is a success before she puts herself on the waiting list for it.

The Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain and N Ireland are giving £22,000 a year over two years to the project.

Anne Fragniere of the Group said that, before this breakthrough, parents who risked having a child with a genetic disorder were faced with three choices: not to have children; take a risk; or have a test when the baby was

8-10 weeks old and undergo the trauma of an abortion. Now, says Ms Fragniere, parents will have more choice and the number of abortions will drop.

Life, the society for the protection of the unborn child, condemns the technique and questions its pioneers' definition of when "life" begins. A spokesman said: "This is not a test to prevent the conception of a child. It is a test to seek out and destroy children of 'the wrong sex'. It just identifies candidates for killing".

Mr Winston and Dr Handyside hope to extend their research into cystic fibrosis. But the programme could be halted if Parliament votes against the controversial clause 11 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill which allows research on embryonic tissue up until 14 days after fertilisation.

## Scientists find SMA gene

Scientists are closing in on a technique to diagnose childhood spinal muscular atrophy during pregnancy now that the defective gene which causes it has been found.

SMA, a muscle-wasting condition that can disable and kill, affects one in 10,000 babies. Signs of it can appear towards the end of a pregnancy or at birth, but the condition can take up to 14 months to become apparent.

With the new test, which should be available in six months, parents who carry the gene will have the option of an abortion.

The discovery, reported in *Nature* magazine, is the result of a joint effort by Dr Kay Davies of John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and staff at Hammersmith Hospital in London and Columbia University in New York.

## Dr Watson on trail of Alzheimer's

Nobel prizewinning scientist James Watson is to start a new programme to discover the genetic causes of Alzheimer's Disease. He has made it first priority of the Human Genome Initiative, which he will direct in America.

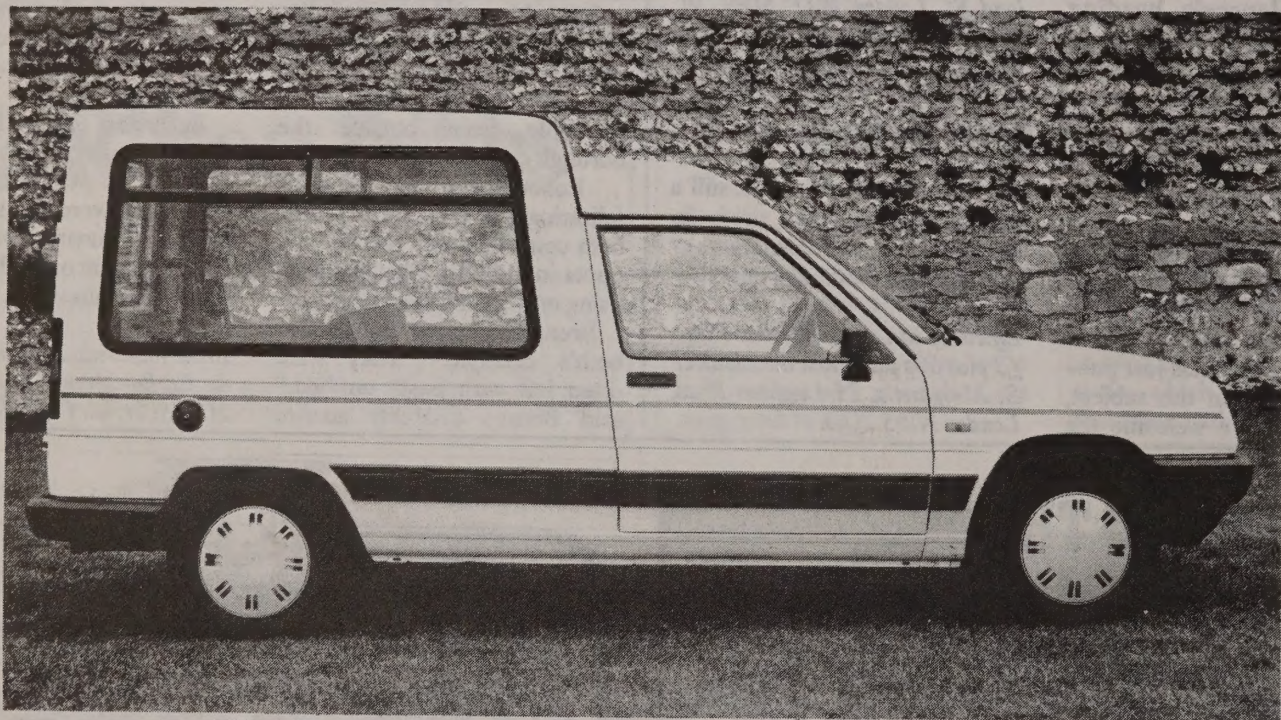
The initiative, expected to last 15 years and cost £2 billion, aims to discover the molecular basis for cancers, and the environmental and genetic causes of intelligence and psychological disorders.

"So much human disease has a genetic basis," said Dr Watson in a speech at Leicester University last month. "Our project is a way of making the study of disease much easier."

Clive Evers, information and training officer at the Alzheimer's Disease Society, commented: "This research may well hold a vital clue to Alzheimer's. It is a major step towards developing treatment." But he added that only "a very small number" of people with Alzheimer's are affected by its genetic causes.

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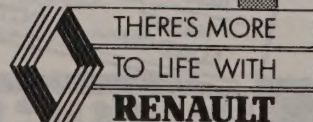
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*Atlas*





# Employment and training: Cinderella services

Clive Langman reveals the weaknesses of services for disabled people and calls for action now

In May 1987, the National Audit Office, the watchdog on Government departments, said of the Manpower Services Commission (now the Training Agency) that it did not have "regular, reliable and consistent statistics on the numbers and characteristics of unemployed, disabled people."

It ordered a review, which was completed last year, but has still not been published.

We are told it is waiting on a Ministerial Review of Employment Services for Disabled People which will indicate the pattern of future services.

That review was due to be published last year, then in March, and now June. It is said that the Treasury does not like certain aspects of it; in other words, it entails some necessary expenditure.

Some expenditure is overdue, in view of the apparent decline in the quality of service provided to unemployed disabled people.

It is well known that a quarter of companies employing over 20 people do not comply with the statutory quota scheme which requires them to employ at least 3 per cent registered disabled people.

Group have also adversely affected services.

DROs and Disablement Advisory Service teams with responsibility for the Sheltered Placement Scheme (SPS) have remained in the Employment Department, which is mainly responsible for placing people in work.

Yet the Employment Rehabilitation Service (ERS), which is responsible for assessment and rehabilitation, was placed within the Training Agency, which has national responsibility for training.

This inexplicable division was made in spite of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee calling for a unified and coordinated service in 1987.

The ERS has trebled the number of people it sees and started a mobile service.

However, as it now falls into the general pattern of service provided for able-bodied people entering Employment Training (ET), a question mark hangs over the quality of the service.

An assessment which used to take six to eight weeks now takes an average of 10 hours.

Because of cash restrictions it

because money cannot be transferred from one financial heading to another.

Government delay in publishing its two reports is also causing problems elsewhere.

In *The Advocate* (December 1989), Michael Barrett, general secretary of the National League of the Blind and Disabled, says



Lord Strathclyde

there is a "very anxious and confused situation" existing in the provision of sheltered employment.

Since the start of the Ministerial Review, he says, there has been a block on the number of sheltered employment capital projects, with some 19 awaiting the Minister's decision.

There is, therefore, a desperate need for the Minister, Lord Strathclyde, to stop the procrastination and start publishing.

Since his appointment at the end of last year, he has managed to generate some goodwill by making encouraging noises about anti-discrimination legislation. But now it's time the action began.

Positive action is also needed to ensure that disabled people are not forgotten in the Government's plans for developing training in the 1990s.

As the Chancellor, John Major, indicated in his first budget in March, the Government is to establish 82 training and enterprise councils (TECs) across England and Wales, with comparable developments in Scotland.

These TECs, essentially consortiums of local employers and other interested bodies, will be responsible for training at local level and through them the Government will direct almost all its £2.53 billion training budget for 1990-1.

Some pilot TECs have been up and running for the last year. Yet when the Training Agency's head office was asked recently for information and copies of material provided to TECs to ensure that the needs of unemployed disabled people are considered, they admitted that nothing existed – although the enquiry may now have sparked some action.

To some extent one should not be surprised by the neglect. In clearing the way for TECs, the Employment Department seemed also to forget the national specialist colleges for further education for sensory impairment, for example, the Royal National College for the Blind, which supply residential training to people with disabilities.

Even now, the long-term posi-

tion of the colleges within the new, local system is unclear, but at least funding has been promised until March 1992.

Another new development also makes no specific reference to provision for disabled people.

Compacts, backed by the Department of Trade and Industry, are being established between

**"Until the Ministerial Review is published, employment services will continue to look uncoordinated and cut price. The power to put this right rests with the Minister."**

employers and schools, colleges, training providers and young people.

It is claimed that Compacts are a new kind of partnership between employers and education – a way of ensuring that the employer gets the high quality workforce needed in the future and that young people get the best possible foundation for their working lives.

The information which is sent to employers to encourage them to offer work experience placements and "work interviews", develop new courses, provide training and so on, emphasises that during the 1990s, demographic changes will lead to a fall in the number of school leavers and that employers must take positive action now if they are to attract young people.

Unfortunately the literature fails to mention that there are many young disabled people who would make very good employees if their needs were just considered. It is no good assuming that they will be automatically included. History and experience indicate otherwise.

On the plus side, the Training Agency has just produced *Building on Ability*, written for YTS and ET providers by Deborah Cooper of Skill (previously the National Bureau for Handicapped Students). It gives useful and positive information about assessing and training people with disabilities.

Face Ltd, a national organisation for small business training and development, has been commissioned by the Training Agency to conduct a survey of disabled people and their organisations to see how existing enterprise schemes and training meet the needs of people with disabilities.

The information will be used to develop the Training Agency's services, in particular to give people with disabilities greater access to ET and Enterprise Training.

There are gleams of hope, then, but until the Ministerial Review is published, employment services will continue to look uncoordinated and cut-price. The power to put this situation right rests with the Minister.

*Building on Ability, free from the Training Agency, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ.*

*Clive Langman, formerly of the Training Agency, is now a consultant on employment and disability.*



Making clothes on an Employment Training Programme.

ple. Central and local government are just as bad, and there hasn't been a prosecution since the early 70s.

Disabled people and their organisations have clashed with civil servants: the former calling for enforcement; the latter saying the scheme is unworkable.

The number of unemployed disabled people being placed in jobs by Disablement Resettlement Officers (DROs) is unacceptably low. For example, in the six months to December 1989, only 24 disabled people were placed in Manchester. (This is no criticism of individual DROs.)

It seems that the Department of Employment Group, comprising the Training Agency and the Employment Department, are being geared up to privatisation or semi-autonomous agency status, and the priority given to special needs work is very low.

Administrative changes in the

has been unable to recruit professional staff, and to maintain the volume of people seen it has had to use administrative and technical staff to lead assessments.

A person with MS or paraple-

**"Ironically, budgets in the Training Agency are awash with money."**

gia could now have their occupational assessment and recommendation for future employment or training made by an ex-clerk or welder.

Ironically, some budgets in the Training Agency are awash with money (largely due to the shortfall of people taking up ET). Yet in spite of the success and demand for Sheltered Placement Schemes and so on for disabled people, budgets have either been frozen – such as SPS – or cut – as in the ERS. This has happened

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# Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Ignored

I am in regular receipt of your newspaper and find it extremely useful in keeping up to date with policies/developments affecting the disabled.

However, it appears that little attention is given to members of minority parties in the reporting of Parliamentary work.

Over the last month I have spoken on the Students Loans Bill (supporting the All-Party Disablement Group amendment), attended and spoken at the Dial-a-Ride launch, asked questions on educational provision for deaf/blind children in Scotland and several others on behalf of Deaf Accord, and also raised a question at Employment Question Time on job opportunities for the disabled. None of this is mentioned in your April edition.

Both Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru) and myself are actively involved in disability issues in the Commons and – as you undoubtedly have readers from Wales and Scotland – hope we will be referred to as participants on these issues when our activities merit it.

**Margaret Ewing MP**  
House of Commons  
*Our Month in Parliament space is limited, but there is certainly no intention to omit the activities of minority party MPs on behalf of disabled people – Editor.*

**Too little pocket money**  
I wonder if you can help?

My daughter is 25, severely physically disabled, and lives in a residential home.

She is a typical young person and enjoys going out, but is finding it almost impossible to survive on the £10.05 per week pocket money she receives. It has to buy all her toiletries, make-up, hair care and clothing.

She does have a mobility allowance, but this has to keep her outdoor chair in good repair, without which she is unable to go out on her own; also taxi fares and train fares to get her home to me for a holiday.

I know that at one time she could have claimed a clothing allowance, but under the new system this Government brought in, you cannot get a clothing allowance unless the reason for claiming is due to the disability – or so I was told.

The amount of pocket money given to those in residential homes has not gone up very much over the past years, but prices have gone up considerably.

I am sure there must be others in the same situation. It seems at present we have little option but to help our daughter with her expenses, if she is to enjoy life and do the things all young people enjoy.

**D E Davis**  
Wareham, Dorset  
*Mrs Davis is right, though personal allowances do vary, depending on whether the centre is run privately or by a local authority. If other readers feel strongly about the meagre*

*allowance, why not tell your local MP of your experiences? Or write to the Rt Hon Tony Newton, Secretary of State for Social Security, 79 Richmond House, Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS. For concerns about clothing for disabled people (see DN page 5), write to Roger Freeman MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, at the same address. The more letters they get, the better – Editor.*

**RADAR's new director**  
We have long wondered what it is that RADAR actually do and I thought Bert Massie would enlighten us (*DN April*).

He mentioned the discriminatory Key Scheme, the verbatim Parliamentary reports and as for employment confessed that he doesn't know how many disabled people work for RADAR.

Also mentioned was the fact that RADAR act as a pressure group on the Government. If this is the case, why does RADAR play no part in the struggle for anti-discrimination legislation? And where were they when the despicable 1986 Social Security Act became legislation, which we all know savagely reduced disabled people's benefits?

Given that 75 per cent of disabled people are in receipt of benefit, how can the new director say RADAR represents their interests?

**Elaine Evans**  
Walton, Liverpool

So Bert Massie thinks you have to be around the committee table, not on a street corner waving placards.

Did the people's struggle in the USA for human rights pass him by? Did he miss how effective standing and lying in the

street and staging sit-ins were? Did he miss how ineffective sitting around the committee table has been?

**Kay Jones**  
Bootle, Merseyside

**Blinded by bigotry**  
I have read your SIC (*DN January*).

My daughter, who has cerebral palsy, has recently been suffering from considerable verbal bullying and abuse from other children at her school – but they, too, are handicapped.

So let's please be realistic. Handicapped people can be just as nasty as non-handicapped people. Why not? They are human after all.

**Name supplied**  
Hampshire

**Community charge losers**  
It now appears that the most tragic "losers" in the new community charge system will be disabled homeworkers. Some face having to pay half their earnings in poll tax.

These people are victims of disabling accidents and illnesses who wish to work but can only do so by using their craftwork, or offering services like typing, teaching or repairing.

They earn usually below £1,000 and within limits allowed by the DSS before loss of state benefits. With the money many buy equipment and gadgets to relieve their disabilities. A few are budding entrepreneurs who "plow back" into their projects.

Being scattered and isolated, they have long been a generally disregarded minority. Now there is a Guild of Disabled Homeworkers, a voluntary group of disabled people based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, who

finds surplus materials, etc, to give them and provides free marketing for their products.

The Government has assured the Guild that it could qualify for grant aid in the 1991-2 financial year and the the Prime Minister feels that "the initiative of disabled people needs to be rewarded and encouraged."

This leaves the Guild (a charity) with an immediate need to increase services and crying out for funds whilst having to wait a year for grant aid.

**Francis Holton**  
Chairman  
Guild of Disabled Homeworkers  
Enterprise Aid Centre  
Stag House  
Woodchester GL5 5EZ

**Frustrated**  
In March a friend and I went to a concert at the National Exhibition Centre Arena in Birmingham. We are both wheelchair users and paid £13 each to see "Tears for Fears", who are themselves involved in music therapy for people with disabilities.

Staff were very helpful in finding parking facilities for us close to the entrance and directing us to our designated places at the side of the stage.

But when "Tears for Fears" came on, the audience quite naturally stood up, blocking our view, and the dozen or so other people who had disabilities were as frustrated as we were.

Wembley Stadium and Arena have provided elevated platforms that have ramped access for people with disabilities. It's about time the NEC Arena management addressed this problem.

**Angela Drane**  
Redditch, Worcs

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**My media campaign**  
Daniel Day Lewis won an Oscar and a BAFTA award last month for his portrayal of cp writer/artist Christy Brown in *My Left Foot* and the film took an Oscar for best picture.

America's 43 million physically disabled people won't have missed the news. As part of a massive publicity campaign aimed at disabled people, film company Miramax sent out 5,000 copies of a review of *My Left Foot*, written by a disabled person, and a questionnaire asking them what they thought of the film and the marketing of it.

"Disabled people do have money," said Norma Vescovo, director of California's Independent Living Center. "It's nice to see someone finally recognise that."

*My Left Foot* has already grossed over \$10 m in the States. Now it's being relaunched at 35 cinemas here. But will disabled people get to see it?

**No, minister**  
MP and ex-Labour leader Michael Foot hit the nail on the head last month when he declared in Parliament that the Community Care Bill had been *spatchcocked* onto the NHS Bill.

The Concise Oxford has: "spatchcock *n* & *vt* 1. fowl killed and then plucked, roasted, dressed, split open, and cooked immediately." (N.B. It also means "insert incongruously".)

**What's in a name?**  
The row over *Guardian* Health editor John Illman's use of the term "the disabled" (*DN March*) continues. One of his recent columns was on "euphemisms which obscure important truths" including, apparently, "people with disabilities", "learning difficulties", and "speech impaired". He concludes: "The disabled do have special needs. Let us highlight them by using language openly and honestly – not as a shield against reality". Any objections? Write to John Illman, *The Guardian*, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

And while you've got the writing paper out, how about dropping a line to *Melody Maker's* assistant editor Steve Sutherland. In a feature on David Bowie (24 March issue), commenting on one of the Canadian gigs in Bowie's present tour, Mr Sutherland wrote: "A lot of Canadians must slip on the ice – there are legions of cripples here tonight". (*Melody Maker*, 26th floor, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1.)

PS Do you ever see "legions" of disabled fans at a British gig?



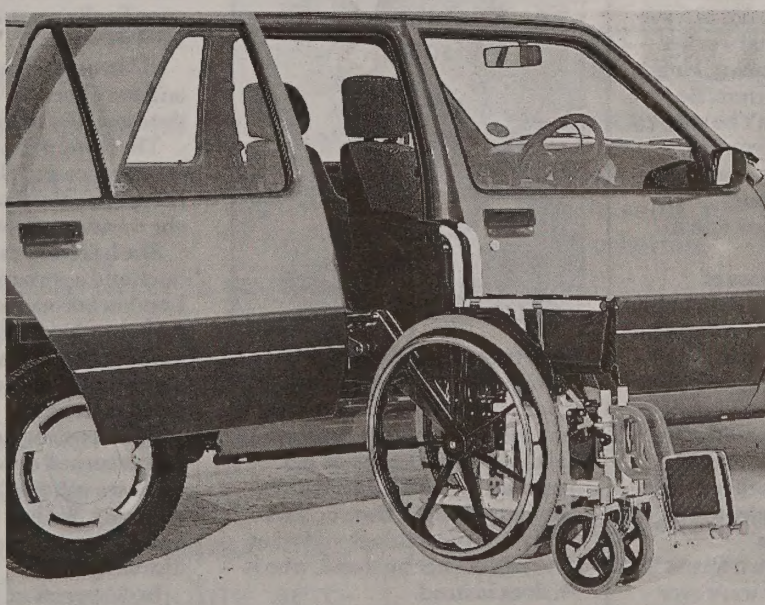


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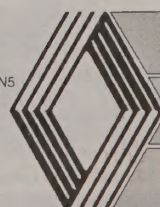
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## Geraldine Holden reports

If you watched TV from 16-25 March you may well have seen one of Central TV's daily Find a Family slots for children in care.

This year 14 children from all around Britain were featured and already there have been over 10,000 telephone enquiries alone.

At any time in the UK there are 17-20,000 children in care, out of a total of around 80,000, who could be adopted.

Because of the availability of abortion and contraception, together with changed attitudes to one-parent families, most babies and young people up for adoption have special needs – physical, mental or emotional.

### Who can adopt?

Families with children, childless couples, divorced, remarried or single people of any race or religion can apply to adopt. You have to be over 21, but for people who want to adopt "special needs" children there is no upper age limit. Couples who want to adopt jointly have to be married to each other, as opposed to simply living together.

### How do you start?

You must think hard about what you can offer a child and about your limitations, and then talk it over with people close to you and any children you already have, before approaching an adoption agency.

Read the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) book *Adopting a Child*, which explains the whole lengthy process and includes a list of

### Adopting successfully

Linda Hunt, 43, and her husband Roy, 48, of Herne Bay, adopted Laura, now four and a half about a year ago. Laura is multiply disabled – brain damaged, without speech and with poor eyesight.

"When she was placed with us, we considered the possibility that she would never walk or talk," said Linda Hunt. After putting "a hell of a lot" of work into helping Laura, she can now feed herself, crawl, walk with splints, say "Daddy" and make different sounds for the things she wants.

The Hunts decided from the outset that they wanted to adopt a child with disabilities. They have three able-bodied children, aged 24, 22 and 16, all still at home, and felt that if they adopted another, neither side would get much out of it. They found Laura through the *Be My Parent* book but started by ringing around 20 agencies.

"I didn't stop until I got one where they were nice to talk to.



Happy family: Laura, 4, mother Linda (2nd from right) and two grown-up Hunts.

# Adopting a disabled child

agencies. BAAF is not itself an adoption agency but once you have been "approved" by one of its member agencies, you should be accepted by all its members.

If an adoption agency cannot find a child a local family, it will send details to BAAF.

BAAF operates an exchange service to link families waiting to adopt with children waiting to be adopted. The exchange only deals with children with special needs who are looking for a permanent family.

If this is not successful, then the child is included in BAAF's photo-listing *Be My Parent* book, especially for disabled or abused children.

The first conversation is so important. I was very put off by a lot of agencies. People were abrupt and bureaucratic."

Linda Hunt's advice to other would-be adopters is not to leave everything to the social worker. "Get the PPIAS magazine, ring agencies and write letters. Be open minded but don't be swayed from what you know you can manage. I was told several times that we were too old but I wouldn't give in. We are still in our prime!"

She warns of the mass of paperwork, questions, references and medicals that have to be gone through. There were health visits, sessions at the agency with other couples and then overnight stays with Laura's foster family.

The Hunts are now on the brink of adopting another child with disabilities. "Laura needs companionship and a relationship on her own terms. There was no way we were ever going to adopt only one disabled child."

### Money

If you are unsure how you would manage financially, many local authorities offer an adoption allowance, based on your circumstances and the child's needs.

Disability benefits, such as attendance allowance and mobility allowance, may also be available.

The amount of money central Government gives to local authorities has a direct effect on adoption. Many local authorities lack social workers to deal with adoptions, which means disabled children who might otherwise be adopted are living in residential care.

### Other avenues

Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services (PPIAS) was formed by a group of parents who adopted children considered "hard to place". Co-ordinators around the country collect information about the agencies in their area and share this with new members.

PPIAS also puts families in touch with each other so they can share experiences and act as informal support networks.

Offering to foster is one way to get through to the right people in a local authority agency. Make it clear at the first interview that you are interested in a child who needs a permanent new family.

### Waiting to adopt



Ginette Bousfield above, 49, of Basingstoke, has got arthritis and is partially sighted. This means that she wears very dark glasses, walks with a stick outside her house and on very bad days cannot walk at all. But she says she can do most things and what she can't do, her husband, who is 39, does instead.

She already has two sons of 23 and 26, who have left home, from

her first marriage. She brought them up on her own for 11 years. She and her second husband have been trying to adopt a disabled child for about 15 months. They specifically want a child who is aged over eight.

"I have tried umpteen times and have been turned down each time because of my health."

The irony of this is that both Hampshire and Berkshire would accept her as a foster mother but she wants to adopt.

She has tried the *Be My Parent* book and approached most of the London boroughs but so far without success. She is now pinning her hopes on a girl who is partially sighted who is currently being fostered.

"I'm crossing my fingers, but if we get turned down this time I think we will think again about adopting. We just keep coming up against the brick wall of my disability."

In desperation, because she was not being assessed by local authorities, Ginette went and had a private medical which cost £200. The doctors said they could see no apparent reason why she should not adopt.

### A special agency

Cynthia Floud is director of Parents For Children, a specialist adoption agency covering a radius of 100 miles around London, including Bristol. Four social workers started the agency in 1976 because a lot of children, and particularly children with mental and physical disabilities, were described as unadoptable and they felt this was wrong.

So far 130 children have been placed in 13 years.

Cynthia Floud describes it as an agency without rules. "For example we have found single parents are very good parents and it can be a mother or a father." One terminally ill child was placed with an OAP and another Down's Syndrome child was placed with a male couple.

Families are not "approved" in the abstract to begin with.

"Anyone interested in our children will go on our mailing list. Whenever we take on a new child we make a video and a photosheet. People get the photosheets and if they are interested in a particular child, contact us and see the video."

If the family is still interested, then there is intensive preparation work and families have to do some homework, for example investigating local respite care facilities, to show their commitment.

Parents for Children provides a post-adoption service which goes on until the child is 18 (or even beyond if necessary). "If you are taking a child with these sorts of special needs, difficulties don't disappear with adoption."

The agency's ethos is that they are enablers. "We don't know best," says its director. "Families should not be dictated to by a social worker."

This approach seems to pay off. The national "disruption" ie breakdown, rate for adoptions of all ages is 22 per cent. Parents for Children's is 15 per cent and it places virtually no babies (the most popular age).

"Our families are often poor. None of them are rich," says Cynthia Floud. "They are very good at looking after children but not very good at making money."

"Local authorities are increasingly aware that it is illogical to pay foster parents one sum and adopters less and *most* are happy to pay the enhanced foster rate as an adoption rate."

What the families do have in common, apparently, is that they can all stand up for their children. "They are all unusual in some way. Many of them have a strong religious faith, but they all have a good support system or feel part of some community group. To take on children with challenging behaviour you cannot be isolated."

### Information

British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering/Be My Parent, 11 Southmark Street, London SE1 1RQ, tel: 071-407 8800. Wide range of books and leaflets. A new book published this month is *The Deaf Child in Care*, £5.

Parents for Children, 41 Southgate Road, London N1 3JP, tel: 071-359 7530. Open meeting for anyone interested in adopting a special needs child on Saturday 19 May at 11 am.

Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services, Lower Boddington, Daventry, Northamptonshire NN11 6YB. Send SAE for information pack.

Membership costs £5 and includes cost of the newsletter. Information and resource pack on adopting disabled children out later this year.

National Foster Care Association, Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DE, tel: 071-828 6266.

National Childbirth Trust Parents with Disabilities Group has several people who want to adopt among its members. Contact Jo O'Farrell, 6 Forest Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 7EH.

Post-Adoption Centre, Interchange Building, 15 Wilkin Street, London NW5 3NG, tel: 071-284 0555.

Professional workers offer confidential counselling to adoptive parents or relatives and adopted children on anything to do with adoption.

The National Organisation for Counselling Adoptees and their Parents, 3 New High Street, Headington, Oxford OX3 7AJ, tel: (0865) 750554.

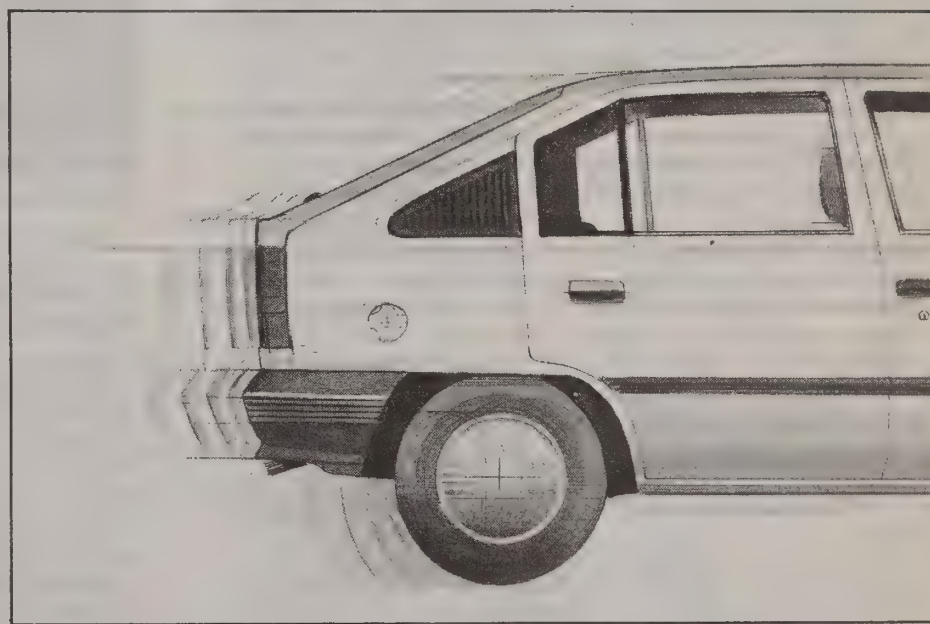
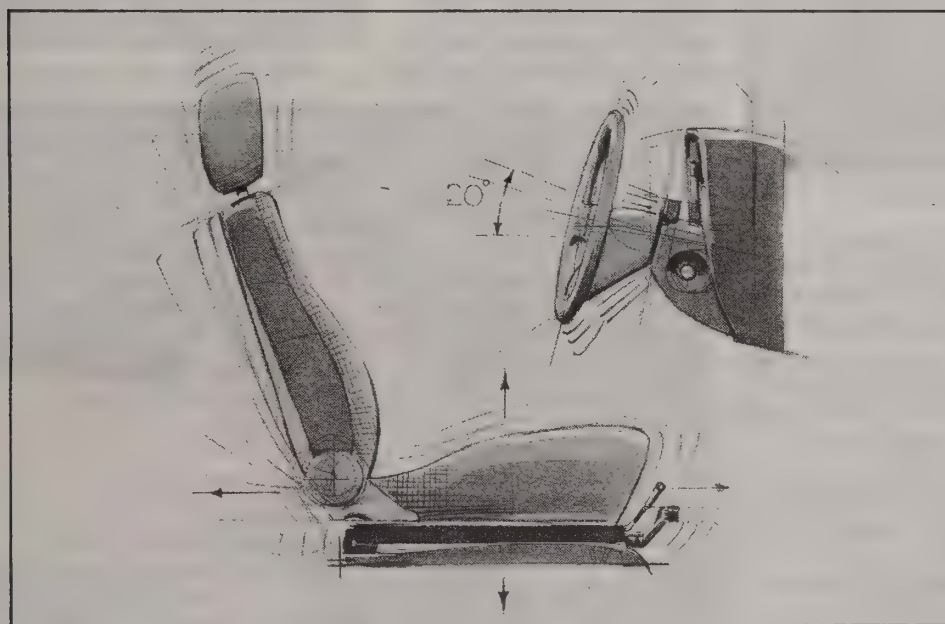
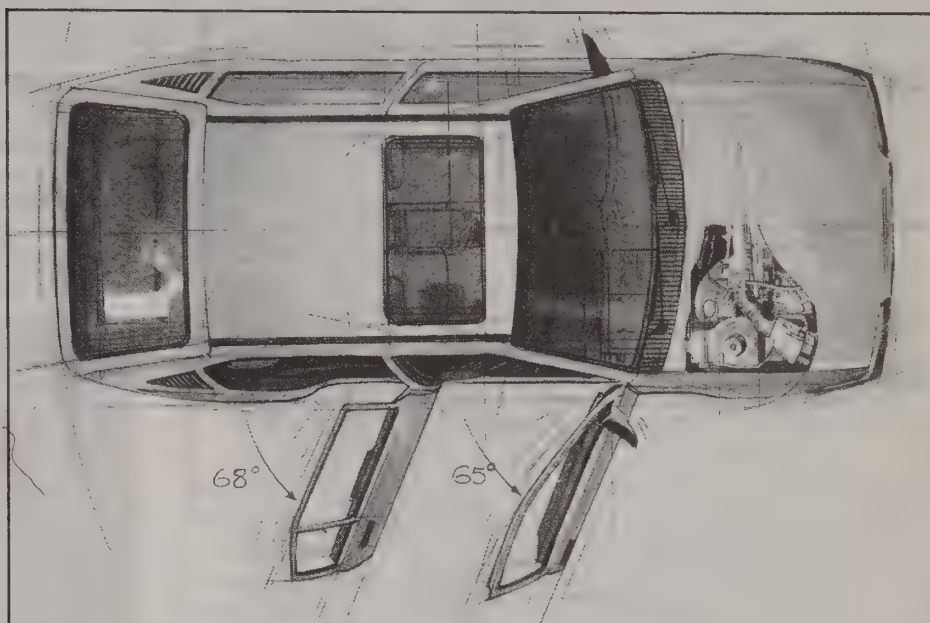
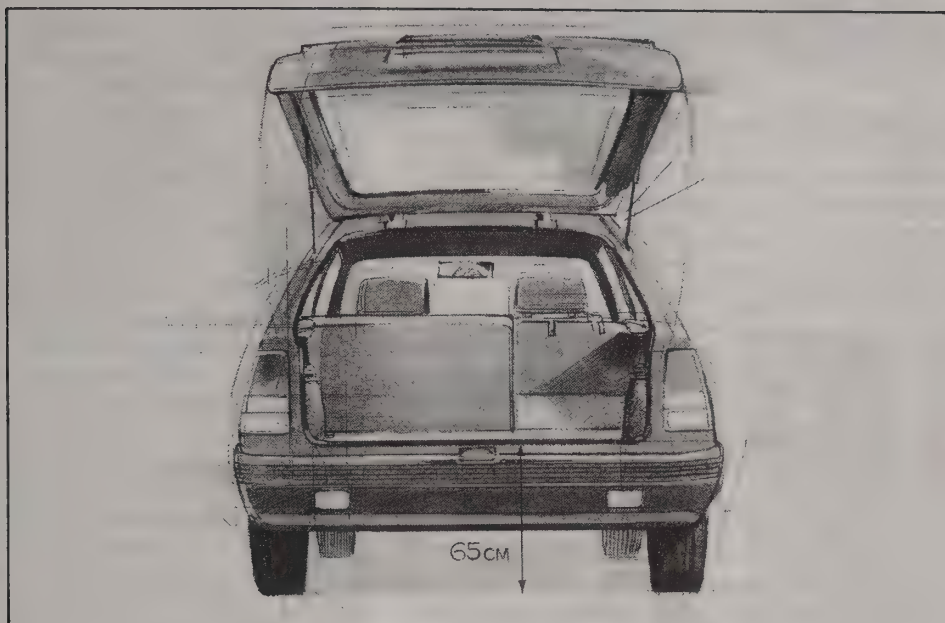
Barnardo's has fostering and adoption projects working with children and young people with a mental handicap throughout the UK. Regional offices are listed in the phone book. Head office: Tanners Lane, Barking, Essex IG6 1QG, tel: 081-550 8822.



Andrew and Samantha: finding a family through Central TV.



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Thoughts of coffee and central heating on the rockface.

"Outward Bound" conjures up images of super-fit individuals scaling great heights, swimming oceans and doing things that are good for the soul.

In fact it is the name of a charitable educational trust offering young people the chance to discover their potential through physical exercise courses.

Now the Trust's Eskdale Centre in Cumbria is launching a course especially for people with physical disabilities.

It grew out of a meeting between the principal Bob Barton and John Hawkrige, the climber with cerebral palsy who tackled part of Everest in 1988.

Although there are activity courses for disabled people, they believe there is also a market for a really testing course for ambulant disabled people and wheelchair users.

So, starting in September, the first one gets underway. It will be for 10 ambulant people with similar ability, to ensure they are "impelled" – an Outward Bound expression – to their maximum

potential. (According to the Outward Bound philosophy, this is only reached when people are put into situations that truly stretch their abilities.)

"Equality is the opportunity to realise your own potential," argues John Hawkrige, who will assist with the courses.

All well and good, but is it worth it? At £297.85 a go, it's a lot of money – though that does cover everything.

"The fee we charge is realistic," says Bob Barton. "We have to meet our costs. But we do provide financial assistance if an individual has exhausted other avenues."

Looking round the centre, I could see that access has been on the agenda. There are already grab rails in the toilets and showers and plans for ramps and further adaptations, as well as a new accommodation block.

Dormitories with wooden beds are the norm, in keeping with the spirit of things, but there are nice touches such as spotlights for each bed.

The food, which one

# Outward bound to in

Ben Furner "always loathed outdoor pursuits". Now he's a convert.

automatically assumes will be dreadful, was excellent.

The centre is set in 100 acres of woods and hills, with a lake as well, and offers some of the most breathtaking scenery I have ever seen. It's a marvellous setting for the activities, of which there is a vast choice, including two ropes courses, canoeing, rock-climbing, abseiling, mountain walks, orienteering and overnight expeditions.

For disabled people, some would be inappropriate, for example, the rope course that emphasises agility. But as Phil Kennett, a senior tutor

People are expected to work together with tutors as guides rather than taking the "Simon says" approach.

Having seen the place, I was invited to try out some of the activities.

Kitted out in my climbing gear, I began to doubt the wisdom of the trip. I've always loathed outdoor pursuits, seeing them as a form of self-torture.

When we arrived at the rockface it began to rain.

By the time I started my climb I was already thinking about coffee and central heating.

But despite some colourful language and a blast of vertigo three-quarters of the way up, I reached the top with a definite rush of achievement.

Abseiling back down was harder. There's something distinctly unnerving about leaning backwards when you know there's a 35 ft drop waiting.

By the time I reached the bottom I had slung insults at everybody, especially *DN's* editor. I was freezing cold, my back ached and I was trembling

from head to toe. I vowed never to venture into the great outdoors again and I was going home.

An hour later I was 40 ft up a tree waiting for a turn on what is known in the trade as a "thriller", a 175 ft long zipwire. Squeezing my eyes shut, I launched myself into thin air and hung on.

I enjoyed it so much I went back for another go.

The other "thriller" on the ropes course is a simulated parachute jump. If I had had time I would have had a crack at that too.

Finally, a quick canoe trip on the lake, 20 yards from the centre. This was hard work, and when it was time to pack up I was ready, despite a sneaking desire to stay.

I don't believe this course is for "disabled" people. It is for people with abilities different to able-bodied people.

On my way home, I pondered my preconceptions of the benefits of being impelled into strenuous activity and had to grudgingly admit that there is, as Phil Kennett says, a physical and

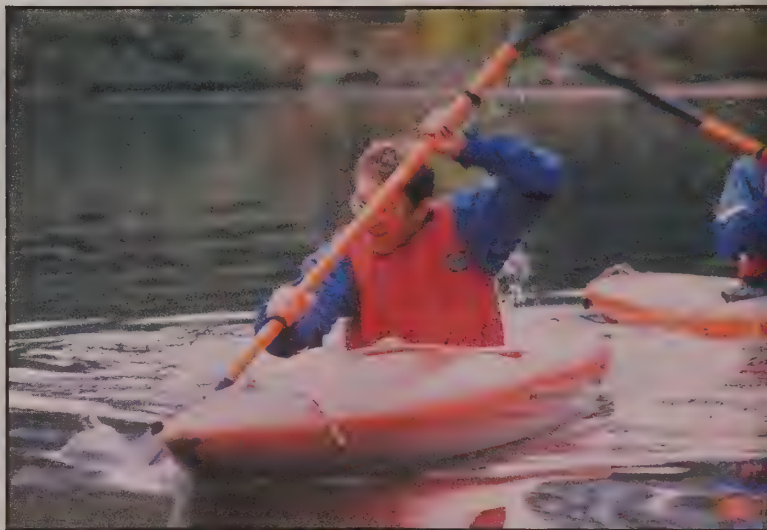


Zipwire: eyes shut.

responsible for special needs students, points out, the courses have to be flexible. "Groups have different abilities, able-bodied or not."

Flexibility is the joy of a place like Eskdale. It's possible to camp 500 yards from the centre and nip back for breakfast, or disappear into the wilderness for three days with a rucksack on your back.

Another plank of the Outward Bound philosophy is the emphasis put on group work.



Canoeing: hard work with Phil Kennett.

**WARNING:** This is a POSITIVE ACTION INITIATIVE which could seriously lead to improved chances of getting a JOB.

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If you are interested, come and see us OR write to: Aurita Andrade, Personnel and Management Services, Ground Floor, Peggy Middleton House, 50 Woolwich New Road, Woolwich SE18 6HQ, and we will send you an Equal Opportunities Information Pack and a job vacancy list. For group session bookings, telephone 01-854 8888, ext. 5569.



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# er glory



g: "distinctly unnerving".



The Outward Bound Trust's Eskdale Centre.

## Special offer for DN readers!

The Outward Bound Trust is offering disabled readers of *DN* aged 18-24 a special introductory price for the new 8-day course in Eskdale from 15-22 September.

All 10 places will be available to ambulant disabled people for only £209. This covers food and accommodation, tuition, special equipment including boots and waterproofs, basic insurance, travel to and from the nearest British Rail station, Ravenglass, and VAT.

Just write for a special application form (*see below*). With the form will come a brochure which includes information about cut-price rail fares to Ravenglass from all over the country.

**Your completed form must be returned by 7 June.**

By 2 July you will know whether or not you have a place.

In August those on the course will receive a pre-course pack containing information about what to bring with you, medical and insurance forms, etc.

If there is a big demand for the course, it may be possible to provide another this year to include wheelchair users, but there will certainly be more courses in 1991.

The Outward Bound Trust reserves the right to cancel the course if less than six suitable people apply.

*Write to: Phil Kennett, Outward Bound Eskdale, Eskdale Green, Holmrock, Cumbria CA19 1TE, or phone 09403 281.*



He got there: last pull up from Phil Kennett.

principle is contempt prior to investigation."

Don't be deceived by stereotypes. If you want an experience that provokes a feeling of achievement and contentment - not achievement in the patronising way so often

dumped on us, but the achievement that is the bread and butter of all human beings - then Outward Bound Eskdale is for you.

I am a convert. I hope other disabled people give themselves the opportunity.



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### Changing Faces

by James Partridge  
(Penguin £4.99)

James Partridge gives an accurate and frank account of how to deal with the trauma of facial disfigurement. He himself suffered burns to the face whilst a student when his car exploded in an accident, and he was only saved by a young nurse and her husband who happened to be passing.

*Changing Faces* goes some way towards telling how to cope and learn to live with looking in the mirror.

But I felt that James' account of his accident was not sympathetic enough to individuals, as it was a very academic report which generalised the effect of burns and did not deal adequately with the emotional side.

Nevertheless, I found the book interesting, informative and to the point.

Simon Weston

### Parents with Disabilities

from the series *Equipment for Disabled People*  
(Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford OX3 7LD. £6.00)

As a disabled parent, I was interested to hear about this book, (a new, updated version of *Disabled Mother*), as I had not known about it when I was expecting my child.

As the foreword says, "Most

## BOOKS

people are able to use standard equipment if it is chosen wisely." So readily available goods are included as well as specially designed equipment and DIY ideas.

In my view, no equipment can be designed specifically for a disabled parent because everyone has different needs.

I found that until my baby reached a certain stage, I could not predict what I would need, so I needed a book like this one which has plenty of information from which the disabled parent can make his or her own choice.

There is an index of suppliers and much of the equipment is illustrated and sizes given.

The chapter on benefits and sources of help is good but I felt the ante-natal care chapter could have been more informative about possible difficulties.

It did not tackle poor access to maternity units. There is often far too little parking space for orange badge holders, reception desks and lift buttons are too high and doorways too narrow. Toilets are frustratingly difficult to get into.

During my pregnancy I had to have an ultrasound scan because there were no facilities for weighing disabled mothers. Cots in ante-natal wards are sometimes too high as well.

The National Childbirth Trust's December contacts

register for disabled parents gives better advice on these problems.

The chapters on cots, bathing, feeding, etc are all very helpful and contain many of the items which I chose. But a section on adapting equipment would have been very useful.

REMAP (Technical Equipment for Disabled People), mentioned at the beginning of the book, can make or adapt anything you may need. Part of RADAR, they will come to your home.

All in all, I found this a very useful book. But I felt it lacked the experience of disabled parents, and I had hoped there would be at least one photo of the equipment being used by a disabled parent and not by the typical able-bodied model.

Isobel Ward

### The Parents' Directory


compiled by Fiona Macdonald  
(Bedford Square Press, £5.95)

This is the first book to give a comprehensive list of voluntary organisations which can help parents.

Two of its five sections are on disability and health, with everything from the Association for Stammerers to the Ehlers Danlose Syndrome Support Group listed.

Parents will be able to use the Directory to get advice, help, support and information. The other sections cover family welfare, education and leisure.

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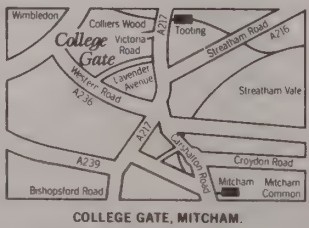
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## EUCREA: funds for disability arts projects

Sian Vasey reports

The European Committee on Creativity by and with Disabled People of the European Community (EUCREA) is mainly a funding body for disability related arts projects from the 12 member countries. But it should increase communication between members too.

I am the present UK representative – one of only three disabled people.

EUCREA has asked each country to set up a national committee to choose its representative and vet funding proposals.

At the moment a steering committee is working on setting up the UK committee, which could become a national disability arts forum umbrella with each local DAF supplying a representative. In areas where there is no DAF, we are asking groups like SHAPE, or individuals, to work towards setting one up.

The new constitution of the national committee requires all representatives to be disabled and all member groups to have at least a voting majority of disabled people. Not that we are anti able-bodied people – we are anxious to work with anyone who supports disabled people's self-advocacy in the arts – but we feel we must take a strong line if disabled people are to be in control.

We also want to ensure that people with learning difficulties are represented on the committee, so this may mean co-opting non-disabled people.

We hope that by July regions will be organised enough to send a representative and delegates to a national conference which will inaugurate the national DAF. One priority of the new DAF will be to encourage disabled people to take part in arts executed and organised by disabled people themselves.

EUCREA's total project budget this year is only about £153,500. One wonders just how seriously Brussels is taking the whole business and obviously the EUCREA committee needs to be arguing strongly for more money.

Funding for the UK is about £18,750, the third highest, with another £2,625 for committee running expenses.

Last year we had only two applications, but both of them were in part successful. This year I hope we shall get a lot more.

Remember that applications must involve three other countries as well, but judging by last year's applications the involvement doesn't have to be extensive – build on any existing Euro-connections you have. Deadline for 1991 projects is 21 September 1990.

For guidelines – no application form yet – or local disability arts contacts, write to Sian Vasey, c/o Disability Arts in London, 5 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TU.



Paris, August 1945: Liberation seen through Robert Capa's camera lens.

ROBERT CAPA/MAGNUM

## PHOTOS

### Magnum

This truly splendid exhibition chronicles the great events of the last fifty years, which happened during the lifetime of many of us.

One "travels" the world during the time taken to walk around the gallery. The 300 photographs, in both colour and black and white, will evoke deep and disturbing emotions, for example the scenes of war and famine. But there are also pictures depicting humanity and dignity, satire and humour, as well as stunning shots of landscapes and buildings.

There is no posing or positioning, just a recording of "what is" (or was) as seen by the eye of the camera.

Magnum is an international collective newsagency, possibly the most famous in the world, which came into being at the end of World War Two. Its members include men and women of many different nationalities, each dedicated in their quest for world news, personalities and events.

A strict code of conduct was laid down regarding their work. No picture can be cropped and they retain the copyright.

The exhibition is enhanced by the continuous showing of all the photographs on a large screen. This is great for disabled and visually impaired visitors, and for wheelchair users. We could view all the pictures in one place before setting out to tackle the whole gallery. This added a further dimension to the display.

I viewed the large scale pictures, for once not requiring my magnifying glass, then went around to find the ones that had caught the mind's eye before the

visual focus gave out.

I particularly liked the shot of Matisse. He seemed trapped in his chair and in old age while the doves around him were free.

The memorial photo taken in Beirut in 1982 filled me with sadness and vague feelings of horror, I think because of the violence of the broken glass across the eyes.

Each picture makes its own statement in stillness or in action. Some demanded more reflection and investigation.

The catalogue is expensive but great value and contains a wealth of information on the events behind each picture.

Gioya Steinke

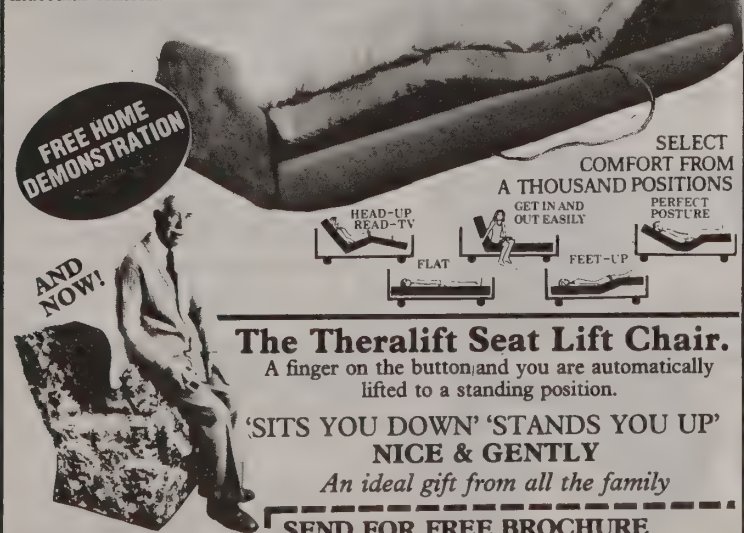
*In Our Time: the World as Seen by Magnum Photographers is at the accessible Hayward Gallery, London until 6 May. Tel: 01-921 0879. Enquiries about facilities for disabled people 01-928 3144.*

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## Look out for...

Deaf percussionist Evelyn Glennie will perform Milhaud's Concerto for Marimba and Vibraphone on 31 May at St Paul's Cathedral, London. The concert includes work by Mozart and Bernstein and is in aid of the British Deaf Association. Tel: 01-629 3711.

Integrated dance company Amici perform a double bill of *Passage to Sanity?*, about a woman who has manic depression, and *Mercurius* about the Trickster character in mythology and popular culture. Glasgow's Tramway Theatre 27 May, tel: (041) 423 9527, and the Riverside Studios in London 6-9 June, tel: 01-748 3354.

The Duke of York Theatre, London, now has audio description, a commentary for blind theatre-goers, at the matinee on the last Saturday of each month. Shirley Valentine is there in May. Tel: 071-836 9834.

The opera *Cerentola* on 10 May and *The Planets/Song of the Earth* ballet on 31 May at the Royal Opera House have extra wheelchair spaces. Tel: 071-240 1200 ext 271.

## TV

Daytime Live has had many good examples of positive representation of disability recently, but none more so than the item about blind landscape painter Carolyn James (BBC1, 15 March). She exuded contentment in her lifestyle, and proved a very effective communicator.



The interview and film item managed to keep the right perspective. Neither her art nor her disability gained the upper hand. This was the stuff of precedence, not least in Alan Titchmarsh's no fuss interview. Congratulations to all.

**Boom!** (C4 Wednesday), on the other hand, continues to omit any mention of disability, the only exception being an oblique reference to the wheelchair of one of its photo-strip story characters. The fact that 2.5 million viewers watch *Boom!* should not disguise the fact that it is TV's equivalent of disabled people trying to be "normal".

I'm surprised that **Same Difference** (C4) hasn't commented on this lack of disability pride. The normalisation issue was one of many strong items in a particularly good season. Especially outstanding was the item on newspaper coverage of disability. The programme returns in September.

The final *Same Difference* heralded the appearance of disabled character Andy, played by disabled actor Mik Scarlet, in *Brookside* (C4, 9 April).

British soap operas are still uncertain of disability. Mr Rhodes, the petty bureaucrat-of-a-wheelchair-user, played by disabled actor Sid Williams, appears in *Eastenders* (BBC1, Tuesday and Thursday).

Much as I favour the practice of not putting disabled characters on pedestals, all we know about Mr Rhodes is his penchant for officialdom. A more regular appearance wouldn't go amiss.

Another able-bodied character joining our ranks is Owen Daniels in *Brookside*. Owen's disability story has been well handled, without any scenes of therapeutic "struggles". But knowing he could shed his disability has made the episodes less believable.

In Andy, though, *Brookside* has a character who is different and genuine. As is the part of Melanie, a deaf girl, played by Lorraine Cattarius. So *Brookside* has the edge at the moment.

Briefly, **Follow Your Nose** (BBC1, 28 March) reported on projects funded by Comic Relief, and managed not to intervene between disabled recipients on screen and viewers at home. Good self advocacy. As was *The Clothes Show* (BBC1, 8 April), though why drop customary trendiness when looking at clothes for disabled people?

Chris Davies



“Can you write sometime about the social services’ attitude of never telling clients what they are entitled to? I think this is almost a policy intended to extend the freedom of the individual, but in fact it can become a “lack of freedom”. How can we know what to ask for if we don’t know what we are entitled to?

When I became disabled I found myself feeling totally alone and it was only when I joined RADAR and then picked up a copy of *DN* in our local Spastics Society shop that I realised I was entitled to help.

I eventually asked a social worker to call on me, and was able to have a bath aid and a bed elevator to help me sit up.

When I said: ‘Why did no-one tell me I could have these?’, the reply was: ‘YOU have to ask’. Being the sort of person who does not easily ‘ask’, I found this very difficult to accept.

Are there any leaflets or ways of letting people like me discover what help they may

# Share Your Problems

with Margaret Morgan

## Entitlement should not be a “hit and miss” affair



ask for? It all seemed so hit and miss and yet the aids I now have make a great difference to my life.

I didn’t even know they existed, and I can’t help feeling there are a lot of other people struggling who need help but don’t get it. One answer I received was that if they all found out the cost would be prohibitive! But surely this is no reason for making it so difficult.

When a person first has to face the fact that nothing more can be done, and that their situation is going to

continue or even get worse, they have a great sense of desolation and “aloneness”. I felt completely “ditched” and with little will to face life.

For me the change came when I heard about the local pain clinic and persuaded my GP to refer me. The doctor there was fantastic. He made it quite clear he could not cure me, but would do everything in his power to relieve my pain. I suddenly felt I had the will to live again. That man and his caring attitude gave me the incentive to cope with life and after that to seek those ‘hidden’ sources of social services help.

But I felt there was a gap I could well have fallen into – and may even be in – unknowingly. Surely someone should have said: ‘Now you find this is your condition, you can have these things to help you, if you need them’. Such assistance should surely not depend on the hit and miss business of whether one hears of it and knows how and where to ask.

If you can bring these points to light I’m sure it would help more people to live with a greater degree of dignity.”

Thank you very much for writing to me. You have certainly highlighted a very difficult “Catch 22” situation. I quite agree that coming to terms with a condition that is likely to be permanent can have devastating emotional effects. It may well take a considerable time to acknowledge, even to oneself, that no “cure” is available and that one is going to be permanently disabled. This means that the great variety of literature and references which are about just don’t get noticed by those who need them.

Doctors and other professionals may be hesitant to recommend special equipment, services and allowances too soon for fear of stressing the negative aspects of the illness. Social services will not know about an individual’s needs until s/he gets in touch or is referred to them.

Having said this, I fully endorse your point that more advice and help should be offered before clients have to ask. How can you know what you want until you know what is available?

In many doctors’ surgeries and health clinics, leaflets and information about local services and contacts are on noticeboards, while in others they may be in doctors’ filing cabinets.

Most hospitals display pamphlets from the Departments of Health and Social Security, as well as from voluntary organisations. You may need someone to point these out to you and to suggest which are the most relevant.

Making sure that people have the right information at the right time is not easy, but there is really no excuse for professionals to wait for someone to ask for an allowance or piece of equipment. Many social services departments say that they and their budgets are overloaded, but they do have a responsibility to ensure that disabled people know what services are available locally.

Organisations like RADAR are very helpful in highlighting needs and providing information and the Disability Rights Handbook (updated each April) is a comprehensive guide to rights, benefits and services for all disabled people and their families.

Many areas have welfare rights officers, usually based at social services departments, and there are DIALs (Disability Information and Advice Lines) all over Britain.

But making sure that the right information gets to people needs constant vigilance and pressure, as well as skill and experience in this specialised field.

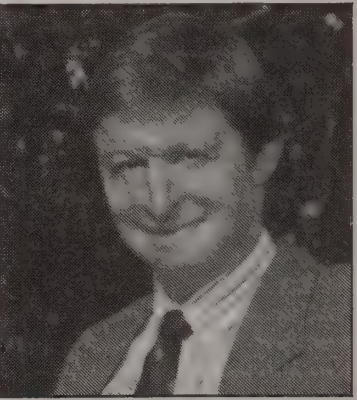
*RADAR, Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.*

*Disability Rights Handbook from the Disability Alliance, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2H 8NJ, tel: 071-240 0806.*

*DIAL UK, Park Lodge, St Catherine’s Hospital, Tickhill Road, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 8QN, tel: (0302) 310123.*

## PROFILE

### James Partridge



James Partridge, 37, is a man who is used to being talked about, but not always for the right reasons. When he was 18, he received horrific facial burns in a car accident and, despite long and painful plastic surgery sessions, his face is still, he says, “like the back of a bus”.

The past 19 years have been spent fighting the stigma of facial disfigurement and now he has written a book (see page 14) to encourage others to confront the subject.

James leads a busy, successful life. He has a wife Carrie, three children and a farm in Guernsey. He teaches in a local school and broadcasts on local radio.

But despite some “marvellous nurses”, James had little formal help in overcoming the psychological blow of facial disfigurement. Too little money, he believes, is spent on helping facially disfigured people.

James challenges the prejudices of a society which he says places undue premiums on a pretty face: “The link between good looks and good character is very strongly imprinted in our culture. So, unfortunately, is the reverse.”

James is particularly critical of the advertising industry: “Even ads for humble household cleaning fluids show the perfect loving mother to be blonde, beautiful and blemish free. Part of the demoralisation of the facially impaired flows from such advertising.”

James has become a public figure because of his book. People have commented on his strength and stoicism. It wasn’t always the case: “Sometimes I let the bitterness lie heavy on me. I found out, however, that I could put that pity to good use in helping others.”

He has formed his own self-help guide from experience: “By watching and talking to others, by acting, reacting and interacting with them, you can re-establish your self-respect.”

Life would have been different, he acknowledges, if the accident hadn’t happened, but maybe no better. “I’m a more sensitive person than I would have been. I’m more alive.”

Alison Rowat

*Let’s Face It is a self-help organisation for facially disfigured people. Contact Christina Piff, 10 Wood End, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG11 6DQ, tel: (0344) 774405.*

**£32.95** inc. post & packing

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DN5

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# WHAT'S ON

**Passivity to Empowerment** a series of six seminars around the UK aimed at school staff. May to end of June. £30. Details and registration form from Rachel Scott, Conference Officer, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.

**Midlands NAIDEX '90.** 9-11 May at the NEC Birmingham. Details from: Naidex Conventions Ltd, 90 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UN, tel: (0892) 544027.

**Women's Introduction to Video Production.** Every Monday for 10 weeks from 14 May at The Masbro Centre, London. £3. unwaged, £30. waged. Information and enrolment: "I CAN" 1st Chance Project, 87 Masbro Road, London W14 0LR, tel: 071-603 7481.

**What Structure Does Your Voluntary Agency Need for the Nineties?** Workshop for senior staff and committee members of voluntary agencies. 15 & 16 May at the London School of Economics. Details from the Course Secretary, Centre for Voluntary Organisation, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, tel: 071-955 7375.

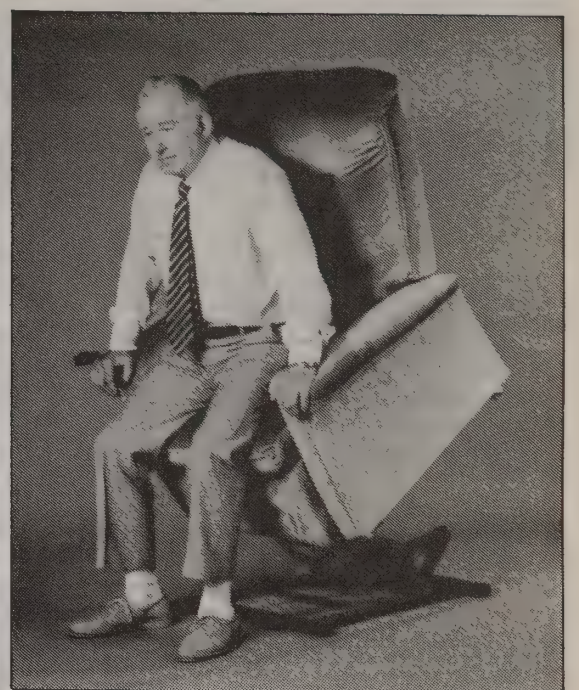
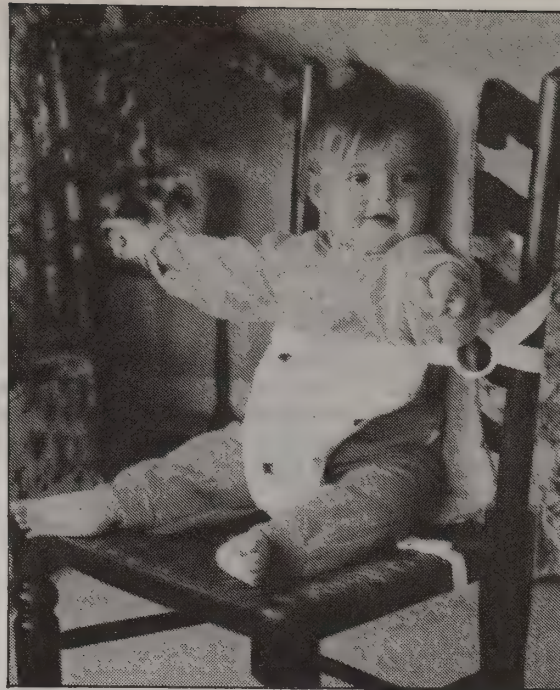
**Music at Work** a practical course in basic music skills. 30 & 31 May. £110. Applications to: Community Music, Interchange Studios, 15 Wilkin Street, London NW5 3NG, tel: 071-485 8553.

**Understanding Older People** a conference organised by Age Concern Scotland on 1 June at St Andrew's College of Education, Glasgow. £18. Details: The Conference Secretary, Age Concern Scotland, 7 Sandyford Place, Glasgow G3 7NB, tel: 041-204 1829.

**Engineering Studies.** A new pre-degree level access course for people with physical disabilities wishing to return to education. GCSE maths and an interest and understanding of science preferable but the course is open to all disabled people and selection will be based on interview. Applications as soon as possible. Hereward College of Further Education, Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW, tel: (0203) 461231.

**Castle Priory**  
**Leisure, Recreation and Sports in Day and Residential Services** - practical programme to demonstrate pursuits available and their adaptation to setting and disability. 4-8 June. £198.  
**Education for Leisure, Recreational Planning within Day and Residential Units** - relating practical activities to service needs, client assessment and activity analysis. 8-10 June. £135.  
**Basic Motor Pattern as Relevant to Adults with Disabilities.** 15 June. £29.

*Non residence charges available on application. Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE (enclose SAE), tel: (0491) 37551.*



Convenience, making everyday living that much easier, is our theme this month. Developing innovative products can be expensive for the manufacturer and the consumer - but not always. Here are some ideas.

The Simply Simon quilted high chair (*top left*) converts an ordinary chair - in a restaurant or on holiday - into a safe, secure high chair for disabled children aged four to 18 months. Four fabric patterns are available, all machine washable. £11.28 (incl



## CHECKOUT

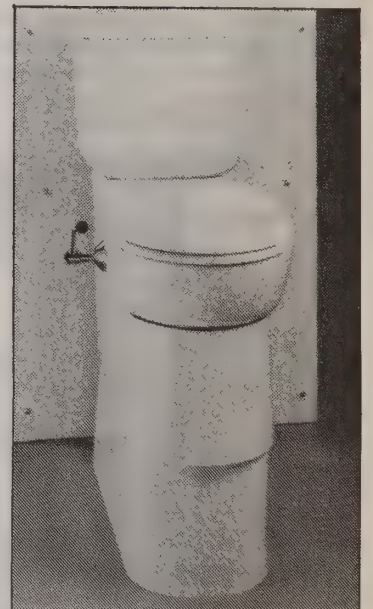
p&p) from Simply Simon Ltd, tel: (0772) 600512.

An electric chairlift is now one option on Parker Knoll reclining chairs adapted by MacNish for disabled people. The chairlift is tilt-adjustable, rises to a maximum height of 36in and can raise someone weighing up to 25 stones. £408 if fitted to your existing recliner; £1,018, including delivery, for the Leander Recliner (*above right*) with chairlift. MacNish Recliners, tel: (0494) 729379.

The HiLoFlush lavatory (*right*) can be used by all the family, but a lever makes it height-adjustable so that a disabled person who couldn't get to their feet afterwards can stand up without help. £1,100 from Sanitary Systems Ltd, tel: (909274) 20455.

Lastly, if you are sitting out in the garden for the afternoon (or indoors), Chair-Mates give you

plenty of room, in four large and small pockets each side, to store what you need, from magazines to a vacuum flask. Also useful on holiday. Available in denim (*left*) £29.99 plus £2.50 p&p, more for tartan or "luxury leather", from Prime Market Products, tel: (0738 86) 329.



## HELP

The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture urgently needs donations to be able to carry on its work. Send to the Foundation c/o The Devonshire Clinic, 21 Devonshire Place, London W1N 1PD.

The British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse has established a working party on disability and abuse. If you can help from your own experience, contact BASPCAN, The Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Nuffield Hearing and Speech Centre, Grays Inn Road, London WC1X. All information will be treated confidentially.

The Kensington and Chelsea Disability Youth Project is setting up a new group for people aged 16-21 with physical disabilities. To join contact Wiebke Seeger, Youth Centre Warden's Office, Ladbrooke Youth Centre, Paddington College Annexe, Lancaster Road, London W11, tel: 071-727 3105.

DISCOVER INDEPENDENCE AT

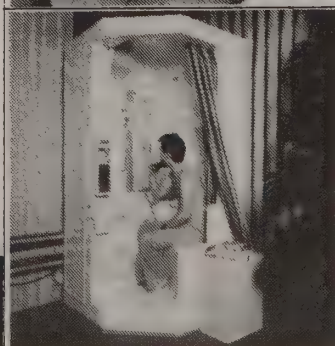
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*lifts and hoists • Toys • Vehicles and adaptions •*  
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FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE FROM: NAIDEX CONVENTIONS LIMITED  
90 CALVERLEY ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT TN1 2UN, ENGLAND  
TELEPHONE: 0892 544027. TELEX: 95604 MEPNCL G. FAX: 0892 541023





**Telephone Counselling Line** run by SPOD for disabled people with sexual or relationship problems. Lines open Monday and Wednesday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Tel: 071-607 8851 and ask for the counsellor.

**British Telecom** has included a quick reference guide to arts and leisure venues for disabled people in the new London A-Z Business & Services Phonebook. It plans to extend this to Glasgow and Edinburgh in the early autumn.

**Powerful Partnerships** a 15 minute training video gives an up to date picture of citizens advocacy. Cheques payable to Avon Citizens Advocacy, £31.10 for statutory bodies, £16.10 for voluntary organisations (inc p&p). Send to Avon Citizens Advocacy, 182 St Michaels Hill, Cotham, Bristol BS2 8DE.

London Electricity is looking for entrants for the disabled category of the **Brightening-Up London Awards**. The prize of £1,000 for a charity of your choice will go to the person who

has done most to improve the quality of life for disabled people. Entry forms from LEB shops.

**Women and the Poll Tax** leaflet available in large print, braille and on tape. Copies can be borrowed from Judy Watson, Women's Unit, Room 303, Town Hall, Euston Road, London NW1, tel: 071-860 5712.

**Mobility Leaflet** giving advice for elderly people is available free from Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE, tel: 071-250 3399.

**New grant** now available from many local authorities for minor home improvement for people over 60 in receipt of certain government benefits. Detailed information from Janice Casey, Care and Repair Ltd, 175 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UX, tel: 071-278 7042.

**Your Rights 1990-91** a guide to money benefits for older people. £1.95 from WH Smiths or by post from Publications Dept, Age Concern England, 60 Pitcairn Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3LL.

**British Telecom** has produced a new guide to equipment and services for disabled customers. Free from local BT Sales Office (address at front of phonebook) or tel: 100 and ask for Freephone Telecom Sales.

**Sandwell Social Service Department** provides a free 24-hour information line in 5 languages on services for disabled people including public access, benefits and holidays. For more details tel: 021-569 5512.

**The National Federation of Shopmobility** has produced a new booklet listing schemes providing wheelchairs in shopping centres around the UK. Copies from Tom Hillier, 17 Grange Place, Grangetown, Cardiff CF1 7DB, tel: (0222) 236255.

**National Vocational Qualifications and Special Needs** a leaflet explaining how the new framework of NVQs can benefit people with special needs. Available free from NCVQ Publications Unit, 222 Euston Road, London NW1 2BZ, tel: 071-387 9898.

**The Association for Stammerers** has opened a national office at the Blackfriars Foundry building, 156 Blackfriars Road, London SE1.

**Disabled CHATS** offers a confidential counselling service to disabled people, most of the counsellors are disabled. Tel: (0670) 353818 Tuesday and Friday from 6-9pm.

**Barclaycard** have introduced a Minicom Supertel at their Manchester office to enable deaf customers to discuss their accounts. Tel: 061-200 7272.

**Travel Pack** for disabled motorists going abroad. £9 inc p&p from GPSP Ltd, 69 West Hill, Portishead, Bristol BS20 9LG, tel: (0272) 842322.

**If Only I'd Known That a Year Ago ...** A guide for newly disabled people and their families and friends. Available free (but donations welcome) from RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.

**Hammersmith Hospital** has a 6 month vacancy for a residency/commision for a disabled artist. Details from Public Art Development Trust, Fifth Floor, 1 Oxendon St, London SW1Y 4AT.

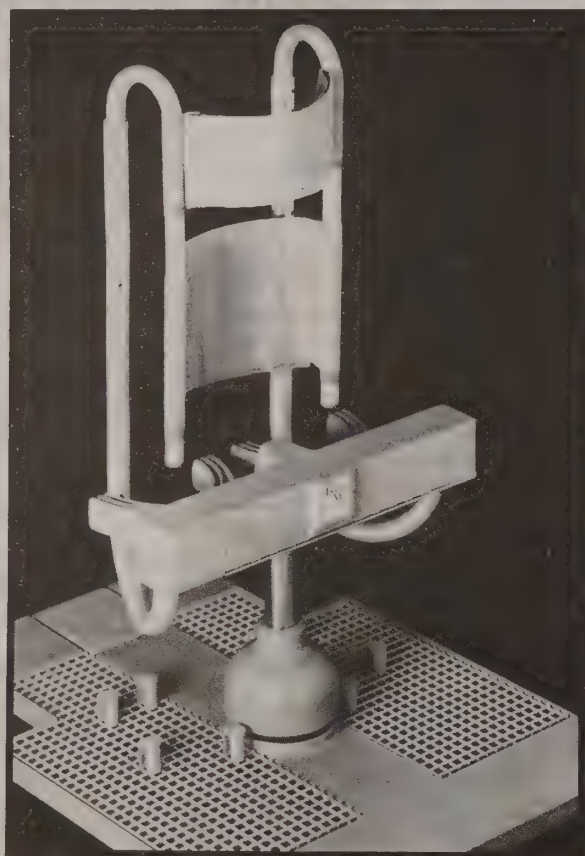
**Caring Costs** is an organisation campaigning for an independent income for carers. For further information send SAE to Caring Costs, c/o 29 Chilworth Mews, London W2 3RG.

**Maundy Todd** has been appointed Director of the Holiday Care Service. **Patrick Daunt** is the new Chairman of ASBAH. **Janet Fairley** has joined the Association for Residential Care as a Development Officer. The Spastics Society has appointed **Sue Whalley** as the new Principal of Delarue College in Kent.

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Suitable for ages approximately 7 years to adult. Adjusts for flexibility, overall height, knee height, width and angle of posture.



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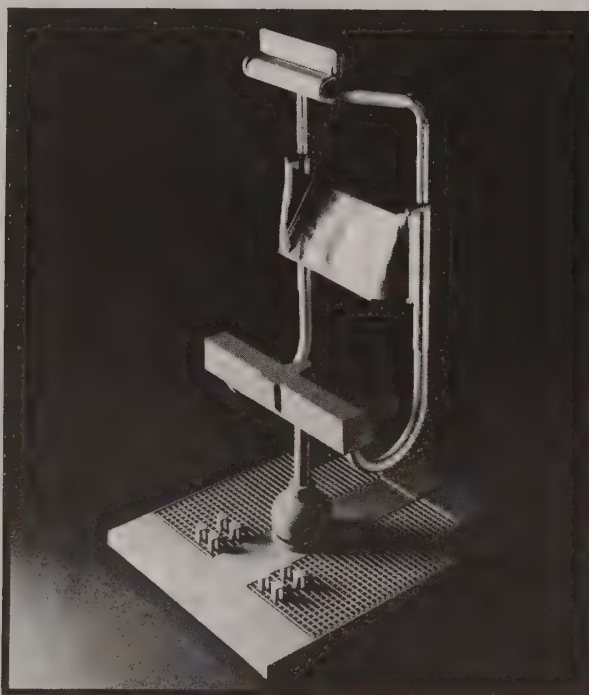
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**SEPT '89 Everest & Jennings** Safari petrol engined outdoor 4 wheel mobility car. Used for 60 hours, meter to prove time. 10 miles per hour control. Reason for sale - eye problems. Cost £3,500. Offers. Tel: 061-427 2058 evenings only.

**Cushion-Lift Chair**, power recliner model. £275 ono. Tel: (0886) 888645 (Worcester).

**Vessa Trekka**. All-weather hood, charger. As new, hardly used, owner no longer requires. Cost £2,326. Will accept £1,000 ono. Tel: 081-302 3795.

**BEC Scooter Sterling Standard**. 12 volt battery charger. Left hand arm rest. Seat revolves to assist access. Lights, basket. Just over 12 months old. Cost £1,500. Sell for £1,000 ono. Tel: (0706) 620401.

**VESSA VITESSE III** electric wheelchair, black, 16 inch seat, kerb climbers, battery charger, loading ramps available. £800 ono. Also similar Vessa Vitesse I. Offers invited. Tel: 081-902 0022.

**HONDA NIPPI** moped. Built for wheelchair use. 1 year old. Low mileage. £1,800. Tel: (0243) 266095.

**BEC ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR**. 6 years old, good condition. £150 ono. Tel: (0889) 270410.

**ALVEMA 110** (Buddy) pushchair with medium size seat. Complete with accessory bag, griprail, tray, raincape and thermal foot bag. Only 12 months old. £350 ono. Tel: 081-441 3714.

**MAESTRO AUTO D** Reg. Powered steering. F and J rotary hand controls. Low mileage. Metallic blue. £3,500. Tel: 081-761 3597.

**BEC 17P ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR**, red. Righthand or lefthand control. Many extras including batteries and automatic charger. Very good condition. £300. Tel: (0222) 703964.

**RENAULT EXTRA FREEDOM** 1989. Rear lowers to ground level to take wheelchair. Seats up to 5 passengers plus 1 wheelchair. Very low mileage, extra warranty. Excellent condition. £8,995 ono. Tel: (0272) 552849.

**CHENEY WECOLATER** 15 tread stairlift, turns to right. Folding seat, rotates at top of stairs. 2 years old, but virtually unused. Cost £4,000. Any reasonable offers accepted. Tel: 081-590 9960.

**ORTHO-KINETICS** pushchair, "Joey", red. Fit up to 7 or 8 year old. 2 1/2 years old. New £530. Asking £250 ono. Tel: Great Yarmouth (0493) 662005.

**FIORINO VAN** professionally converted to take wheelchair user. Very good condition. 33,000 miles. Also, Alvema pushchair, suitable for profoundly handicapped young person or adult. High sides and very stable. £275. Tel: (0983) 527087.

**ESCORT LASER**. B Reg 1984 hatchback. Carchair front passenger side. Electrically operated. Alarm fitted. 4 speaker cassette radio. £4,750. Tel: (0272) 601889.

**ELECTRIC PORTABLE TYPEWRITER**. Olivetti ET55. New June '89. Hardly used - owner cannot cope now. £50. Tel: Rachel (0604) 492029 after 2pm.

**VESSA VITESSE** with charger and kerb climbers. Only used four times but kept regularly charged. £700 ono. Tel: (0734) 780932.

**MINI VAN**. Adapted to take wheelchair passenger. July 1980. 53, 000 miles. £1,000 ono. Contact Olive tel: (0279) 28528.

**MARCON BED ELEVATOR**. Double bed size. Will fit any type of bed. Never used. Cost over £400 will accept £200. Tel: (0323) 767930.

**ELAP CAR SWIVEL SEAT**. Any 2 door car. Cost £160 will accept £85. Tel: (0323) 767930.

**ORTHO-KINETICS** Electric rising chair, to upright position and back. Cost £500 as new. Will accept £250. Tel: (0323) 767930.

**LARK 3 WHEEL SCOOTER**. New batteries. Good runner. £200. Tel: (0323) 767930.

**BEC SCOOTER**. Little used 1984 model with battery charger and carrying basket. £175 ono. Tel: Rainham (04027) 54244 or Danbury (near Chelmsford) (024541) 4219.

**BEKKER HAND CONTROLS**, fit Rover 213 series auto. £50. Tel: (0533) 415225.

**NISSAN PRAIRIE 1.5**. B Reg. Fitted with Carchair for front seat disabled passenger. Good condition. Lower than average mileage. Contact: P Bennett, 60 Orchard Lane, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex, tel: (0277) 373243.

**THERALIFT SEAT LIFT CHAIR**, electric motor with identical standard easy chair. Very good condition. £450 ono but will sell separately. Tel: 061-485 8848.

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR**. Everest & Jennings Elite Whisper. Not 12 months old, immaculate. Includes battery charger, waterproof covers, kerb climbers etc. New £2,702 accept £1,800. Tel: Mr Kendall (0282) 862364.

**4 BED HOUSE** in Towcester, Northants specially adapted for wheelchair use. 1 bedroom and bathroom downstairs (2nd bathroom upstairs). Double garage. Large private courtyard and large flat pathed gardens. Flat access throughout. In centre of small historical town with excellent facilities. £127, 000. Tel: (0327) 53108.

**ORTHO-KINETICS TRAVEL CHAIR**. Wheelchair cum car seat includes tray and headrest. Suit 4-12 years. Good condition £100. Tel: (0703) 463345.

**15 INCH ORTHO-KINETICS TRAVEL CHAIR** sits on front passenger seat of most cars. Includes many accessories. £300 ono. Tel: 061-962 8522.

**ELECTRIC MOBILITY RASCAL DELUXE** and extras. Excellent condition, little used. £900 ono. Tel: (0626) 54121.

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS**, scooters, battery cars. All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstrations and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons. Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

**JIGSAWS BY MAIL ORDER**. Choose from over 300 Jigsaws inc. Waddingtons, Mandolin Heye. For free catalogue write to The Jigsaw Connection, 1 Main Road, Grindelford, Sheffield S30 1HN, tel: (0433) 30121.

## SEND US YOUR SMALLS...

and make a big impression. Small ads in DN reach over 80,000 people for just £3 a line (minimum £9). Please don't send money with your ad - we will invoice you after it goes in. For Find a Friend please send £3 cheque or postal order payable to Disability Now with your ad. Phone 071-636 5020 ext 245.

**EVEREST & JENNINGS** Buggy. 1 year old. With battery charger. £1,000 ono. Tel: (0303) 220050.

**DUDLEY POWERED WHEELCHAIR**. One owner, 2 years old, very good condition. £700 ono. Tel: 071-267 0261.

**NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS**, hand units, Adjustamatic massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods, part exchanges, repairs, C.O.D. Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (0460) 61157.

**HAVE YOU BEEN YET?** The new Keep Able Store has hundreds of products to try out, all under one roof. Wheelchairs, scooters, high seat chairs, and much more. Free advice from therapists. Visit soon. Keep Able, Capital Interchange Way, Brentford, tel: 081-742 2181.

**HOUSE IN HAWKWELL**, Essex, featuring unobtrusive ramps designed to give excellent wheelchair access to house, garden and large patio with raised flower beds. Spacious detached residence. 3 beds, 3 reception. Ground floor cloakroom and shower. £130,000. Tel: (0702) 205939.

**INVALID CAR**, 3 wheeler, Villiers engine. Extras. £325. Tel: (0453) 886041 anytime.

## HOLIDAYS

Have you tried a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas? Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

**NORTH DEVON**. Self-catering cottages sleeping 4/6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated, linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure form South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

**MAR Y SOL**, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Special summer offer, children under 12 accommodation free. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

Continued on page 20

## TEMPORARY AUDIO-COPY TYPIST/WP OPERATOR

Salary £10,689 to £11,745 pa inclusive

Association of Metropolitan Authorities is a voluntary organisation representing the interests of Metropolitan Local Authorities in England.

We are seeking an experienced audio/copy typist for a period of six months initially, with a strong possibility of the job being made permanent.

The person should have a typing speed of 50 words per minute and a good command of English. Ability to operate the Alder Screentyper or

experience with other WP systems would be an advantage.

A flexible approach, ability to work under pressure and commitment to AMA's Equal Opportunity Policy is essential.

People with disabilities are under represented at this level. Those people with registered disabilities who meet the job specification will be guaranteed an interview. The building is accessible to people with disabilities.

For further details please write or phone for an application form to The Secretary, AMA, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ. Tel: 01 222 8100. Closing date for the post is Friday 18 May 1990.



Association of Metropolitan Authorities

# DIRECTOR

## Scottish Centre for Motor Disordered Children c£30k Central Scotland

The Scottish Education Department is in the process of establishing a centre for the education of young children with motor disorders. Located in Central Scotland, the centre is being planned for a capacity of 40 children, some of whom will be resident, and is expected to be completed during 1991.

The early appointment of a Director is required so that he/she can be fully consulted on key planning decisions concerning building design, staffing structure and the education programmes. As a centre of excellence for motor disorders, it will provide a focus for information and training, principally through a secondment programme.

The Director will be responsible for a multi-disciplinary staff working in mixed teams and following the inspiration of the Peto Institute in Budapest. He/she will be responsible for fostering good relations with the Peto Institute, the Foundation for Conductive Education and other relevant institutions.

Reporting to a voluntary governing body, the Director will account for all aspects of the centre including finance, fabric, management of teaching and non-teaching staff and the care and development of the children. It is envisaged that the Scottish Council for Spastics will provide in-depth management support under a contract with the governing body. Candidates will have substantial knowledge and experience in a relevant professional field.

To apply, please send your detailed CV stating salary requirements to Liz Scobie, quoting ref: 4193/DN or telephone her secretary for an application form.

**PA Consulting Group**, Number Two Blythswood Square, Glasgow G2 4AD, Tel: 041-221 3954. No details will be divulged to our client without candidates' consent.

**PA Consulting Group**

HUMAN RESOURCES

*Creating Business Advantage*

Executive Recruitment • Human Resource Consultancy • Advertising and Communications



## HOLIDAY CARE SERVICE

### Information Services Manager C £14,500

The Holiday Care Service is a national charity, established in 1981. It is the central source of information and advice on all aspects of holiday taking for people with disabilities or other disadvantage. We currently assist approx 15,000 enquirers per year.

The potential market for our services is nearer 6 million. As Information Services Manager you will plan, organise and execute the development of our Services and systems to meet the needs of this market. You will form part of the management team, report to the Director, and have a staff of 6 people within the Department.

We are in the process of computerising the service. This is a high priority of the post and knowledge and ability in dealing with different systems is essential.

The Holiday Care Service is supported by the Statutory Tourist Boards in Britain, the Department of Health, and the tourism industry. Development of these and of joint projects is an exciting aspect of the job.

In European Tourism Year the Holiday Care Service already expounds the philosophy behind the Tourism For All report, chaired by Mary Baker and published in 1988. Our commitment to its recommendations and our encouragement of the industry to pursue them is an integral part of the Information Services work.

An interest and understanding of both the tourism and voluntary sector will certainly facilitate your ability to do the job, initiative, drive and energy are equally advantageous.

Our offices are conveniently located by Horley British Rail Station on the direct line to Victoria.

If you are interested in developing your career through this exciting and worthwhile position, please contact: **Maundy Todd, Director, Holiday Care Service**, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW. Telephone: Horley (0293) 774535.



## OPPORTUNITIES IN HARLOW

Do you want to work for a progressive local authority situated in a pleasant town in the Essex countryside, which is accessible to London, M11, M25 and Stansted Airport, with plenty of developments in business, recreation and leisure provision.

Harlow Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and we particularly encourage applications from black and ethnic minority and gay and lesbian people.

We can offer an attractive relocation package and other benefits associated with a good employer. The services which Harlow Council is providing are constantly changing and expanding to meet customer need, and include the management and maintenance of a large Housing stock and the building of new homes. We have many vacancies and whatever your skills, training, or experience, we may have a suitable job for you.

For our job listing "Current Vacancies", please ring 0279 446017.

**HARLOW**

**KINGFISHER 1** is a traditional steel narrowboat with a difference. This boat is from stem to stern designed and built for wheelchair users. 60 feet long, sleeping 6/7 people with full central heating, tv and radio. Fitted with unique equipment including hydraulic lifts that can be operated from a wheelchair. Kingfisher 1 is based on the breathtaking and tranquil Shropshire Union Canal. If you are looking for that special holiday this year contact Dartline Cruisers, Canal Wharf, Bunbury, Tarporley, Cheshire, tel: (0829) 260638.

**HOLIDAY CHALET**, sleeps 6. Specially adapted for disabled people. In holiday centre near Dartmouth, Devon. Swimming pool, playground, games room, evening entertainment. Friends of Rockville Day Care Centre, Oyster Quay, Marine Road, Oreston, Plymouth PL9 7NJ, tel: (0752) 404789 or 491960.

**SUNNY TENERIFE**, Los Cristianos. As featured on tv and radio, the beautiful "Mar y Sol" Health and Fitness Resort. Purpose-built, totally wheelchair accessible. Swimming pools, saunas, gymnasium, physiotherapy. Apartments for rent or ownership. I can arrange your flights too! "Brilliant... Amazing!" says the BBC tv's The Travel Show. Come, see for yourself! Specially adapted taxi service form Tenerife airport. Video (£15 refundable deposit) brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW, tel: 051-339 5316.

### SITUATIONS WANTED

**DISABLED WOMAN WITH CP**, aged 39, degree in English/Art History, looking for work in arts/creative field. Preferably in London with accommodation. Can type, use a WP, general admin skills, good telephone manner. Box No. C2, DN, address page 24.

## LAMBETH

SERVICES WELL WORTH DEFENDING

### Well worth working for.

The Council's excellent conditions of service and generous benefits package include:

- \* Competitive salaries/wages
- \* Minimum 26 days annual leave
- \* Excellent maternity/maternity support provisions
- \* Job share scheme
- \* Flexitime scheme
- \* Generous relocation expenses in approved cases
- \* Interest free season ticket loans
- \* Car loans or users allowance, where applicable
- \* Subsidised car leasing scheme where applicable
- \* Progressive training opportunities
- \* Pension scheme
- \* Subsidised restaurants
- \* Social club
- \* Excellent sports facilities

### FINANCE

#### Senior Accountancy Assistant

£14,682-£16,803 pa inc.  
(Under Review)

The Income Section of the Division is currently under review. Therefore the current duties and responsibilities of this post may change following the implementation of a new structure. You will be required to assist in the collection and recovery of debt, computerised accountancy system, and to ensure that appropriate legal proceedings are instigated. You will be required to supervise staff in the section and will need experience of collecting income, accountancy and reconciliation. Experience of computerised accountancy systems is also required together with the ability to implement the Council's Equal Opportunity Policy and how to eliminate discrimination.

Completed application forms must be received by 8th May 1990. Ref: F31.\*

#### Audit Assistant

£13,389-£14,184 pa inc.

essential car user allowance available

The Internal Audit Division are seeking an Audit Assistant to carry out duties on one of the Audit Groups.

The postholder must be able to carry out audit projects with a minimum amount of supervision. Projects could include systems audits, probity audits, and assistance on investigations including those relating to

frauds. The postholder must be able to demonstrate good verbal and reporting skills. The post will be attached to one of the four audit groups in the Division. The postholder must also demonstrate understanding of an Equal Opportunity Policy.

Completed application forms must be received by 8th May, 1990. Ref: F29.\*

#### Word Processor Operator

£9,903-£11,745 pa inc.

The word processing service in the Directorate of Finance Income Division are seeking a word processor operator to provide an efficient and accurate typing service.

The postholder must be able to carry out duties with the minimum supervision at all times. Duties include accurate copy and audio typing, photocopying and filing and the ability to use a word processing system. The postholder will be dealing with confidential matters and should understand the need for confidentiality.

The postholder must also demonstrate an understanding of Lambeth's Equal Opportunity Policy.

Completed application forms must be received by 8th May, 1990. Ref: F30.\*

Telephone 01-274 7722 ext 2534 for an application form or write to: The Personnel Section, Directorate of Finance, London Borough of Lambeth, Olive Morris House, 18 Brixton Hill, London SW2 1RL.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

As part of the Council's equal opportunity employment policy applications are invited from people regardless of race, creed, nationality, disability, age, sex, responsibility for children or dependants and from lesbians and gay men.

Applications are particularly welcomed from people with disabilities who are under-represented among the Council's staff.

\* POST SUITABLE FOR JOB SHARE

Closing date: 8th May 1990 unless otherwise indicated.

### STRUTTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION

**DIRECTOR £18,465-£21,354**

SHA provides self-contained accommodation designed for people with HIV/AIDS. We are embarking on a period of considerable growth. The post requires leadership skills, knowledge of housing policy, finance, development and personnel management.

For full details contact: Tom Haworth, Strutton Housing Association, 8 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HP. Tel: 01-222 5921

Closing Date: 14th May

SHA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

### London Dial-a-Ride Users' Association

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Maternity Cover - 3 day week (21 hours) - £14,682 pro rata (inc LW)

Applications from people with disabilities positively welcomed

1. to work on establishing accessible bus services in London
2. research and outreach work with Dial-a-Ride services

Our offices are fully accessible.

Further details, taped information and application form from:

LDaRUA, St Margarets, 25 Leighton Road, NW5 2QD. Tel: (071)-482 2325



Dial-a-Ride is London's Public Transport Service for people with disabilities. The Users' Association is striving to become an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Closing date: Friday 25th May, 1990.



## PR/Marketing Director

Arts Funding c£25,000

How would you like to play a major part in the marketing and communications of London's leading arts funding and strategic agency? And at such an exciting time in its development and, indeed, in the development of the arts generally.

You'll need a great deal more than just an interest in things cultural and artistic. The aims of the association are ambitious and wide-ranging, demanding the appointment of a Marketing Director fully able to promote these aims.

Your brief will encompass the running of a compact, multi-disciplined communications team, the design, implementation and financial control of a comprehensive marketing strategy featuring a diverse press relations programme and a whole range of associated internal and external communications activity.

A background in arts marketing would be useful, though the recent shift in style of the association would suit a highly commercial individual with sound marketing or PR consultancy experience. As well as a broad base of marketing communications expertise, key to the role are first-class staff as well as business management skills and the creativity and energy to ensure a consistently high quality output.

The opportunity to head up an important unit and help shape the future of London's arts calendar as part of the central planning team is considerable.

Our client is an equal opportunity employer.

To apply call Ann Fitzgerald or Lynn Beaumont on 01-629 7262 or write to them at the address below.

### MEDIA

#### APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET LONDON W1

■■■■■■■■■■



## Come West

Plymouth has a proud history, an exciting future and an unrivalled quality of life - so make the right move and 'Come West'

### Access Officer

SO.1 (£12,960 to £13,824)

You will be responsible for promoting and improving disabled persons' access to existing and proposed developments within Plymouth and for increasing awareness of the general needs of the disabled in relation to design and the development process. Applications from disabled persons would be particularly welcome.

We are looking for someone with a knowledge of building construction and who is qualified to HNC standard in Building Construction or equivalent.

An attractive employment package is offered in this well-structured department, including Black Horse relocation scheme, training (where appropriate), professional fee re-imbursement, flexible working hours, and above all a varied and interesting workload in a busy but friendly office.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from the City Planning Department, Civic Centre, Plymouth, PL1 2EW, or by telephoning Jane Buckingham on (0752) 264870. For an informal discussion, please telephone Ian Wilkinson on the same number. Closing date for application is Friday, 11th May 1990.

### PLANNING





## VOLUNTARY ACTION - LEEDS SEEKS A COMMUNITY ACCOUNTANCY WORKER

VA-L's present Finance adviser is leaving after appointment as Chief Officer of another voluntary organisation. VA-L wishes to develop her work by appointing a worker in community accountancy to join the team of 2 workers which make up its Management Advisory Service. The MAS provides training and consultancy in a wide range of management issues to management committee members, volunteers and staff of voluntary organisations in Leeds.

There are no formal qualifications required for this post, but experience of manual book-keeping, of training, and of the voluntary sector are essential. Experience of computers would be an advantage.

Salary SO1 - £12,960.

Women and people from ethnic minorities are under-represented at this level of staffing within VA-L, and applications from them are particularly welcome.

Further details and application form from VA-L, 229 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9LF. Tel: 448921. Informal enquiries may be made to Margaret Goddard. Closing date 11th May, 1990.

VA-L will shortly be seeking a half-time worker in the Leeds Volunteer Bureau. Anyone interested should contact VA-L now.

## FIND-A-FRIEND

**YOUNG MAN** with CP, 22 years old, looking for female friendship for letter writing, video viewing or company for occasional film or meal out. Disabled walker with own car. Interests, computing, videos, chess and travel. Lives and works Reading area. Box No. 271.

**MALE 30**, student, non smoker with cerebral palsy. Many interests. Seeks lady for friendship/relationship. Any form of physical disability no problem. Good sense of humour important. Box No. 279.

**WIDOWER 58**, slight walking disability, mobile, independent, easy going, caring, sense of humour. Would like to correspond initially with widow or single lady, able-bodied or disabled. Preferably car driver. Interests include the countryside, nature, holidays, reading and homelife. All genuine replies answered. Box No. 281.

**SINCERE, CARING GUY**, disabled but very active and adventurous, seeks caring, understanding female to share some of life's little pleasures. Central Scotland, can accommodate or travel. Box No. 282.

**RETIRED PROFESSIONAL MAN**, newly widowed after 40 years of marriage. Non smoker. Slight disablement seeks friendship of lady between 45-60. Own car and bungalow. West London area. Box No. 283.

**LADY 28**, wheelchair user, small, kind, intelligent, cheerful with a good sense of humour seeks similar male for meals out, cinema and companionship. All letters answered. Dorset area. Box No. 284.

**MAN 5 ft 8**, blue eyes, brown hair, non smoker and moderate drinker. Own cottage in the Cotswolds. Would like to meet a caring sort of woman, any age, for friendship. Own car, enjoys driving, walking, cycling, television and gardening. Box No. 285.

**LIFE IS GOOD** but should be shared. Professional female, 31, non-smoker, slight disability, would like to meet honest caring man for friendship and future. Interests include, theatre, cinema, eating out and in, animals and homelife. Let's make 1990 a good year for both of us. London/Essex area. Box No. 286.

**DISABLED FEMALE, 47**. Deaf (aid) with tinnitus, walks with crutches. Lives North West London. Interests, music (particularly classical), reading - science fiction, horror and about country music. Would like to correspond and have friends aged 40-50. Box No. 287.

**DISABLED GIRL, 18**. Interests include swimming, horse riding and pop music. Would like to meet able-bodied male, may be to build a relationship with. Should be a driver, aged 18-22, and live in Croydon area, although I am currently studying in Coventry. I am not pretty, but feel I have a caring personality. All letters answered, photo if possible. Box No. 288.

**FEMALE, LATE 40s**, active, slightly disabled. Seeks male 44-52 with sense of humour. Interests are travel, countryside, music, gardening, generally having fun. East Anglia area. Please write and send photo. Box No. 289.

## WANTED

**BEC STERLING X** or a Booster Town and Country. Wanted by OAP. Up to £600. Tel: (0286) 830901.

**SULKY MARK 1 PUSHCHAIR**. For age 2 to 4 years. Tel: High Wycombe (0494) 449527 evenings.

**COUNCIL HOUSE EXCHANGE**. 4 bed semi-detached house in Crouch End, London N8. Quiet area, not estate, near all amenities. Ground floor adapted for wheelchair, (bedroom, shower and toilet). Front and back garden all ramped. We require a 2/3 bed house or bungalow suitable for wheelchair. Any area considered. Tel: 081-341 3584.



## FEEDING or SALIVA PROBLEMS?

**BIBS, SCARVES & CRAVATS**, in WATERPROOF LINED COTTON (from £3.50). Can be attached to Sweatshirts (from £9 each).

Send 30p & SAE for samples and details to: B.F.S., Canalside Workshops, Leverton Road, Retford, Notts DN22 0DR. Tel: 0777 860206

To reply to Find-a-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private & Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 24.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

## northern shape arts for people with special needs

**12 MONTHS' ARTS MANAGEMENT TRAINEESHIP  
FOR A DISABLED PERSON**  
Salary: £8175 (Plus Training Expenses)

Northern Shape, the Northern region's arts and disability agency, in association with Northern Arts and Projects U.K., is offering a 12 month Traineeship in arts administration to a disabled person.

- \* Are you a disabled person interested in the arts?
- \* Do you want to work in arts administration but need some training?
- \* Do you live in the North East/Cumbria and have some office skills and experience?

If you do, then this traineeship may be for you.

The trainee will be on placement with Northern Arts and Projects UK, both based in Newcastle.

Further information and application form (available also in braille, large print, on cassette) from: Northern Shape, Whinney House Resource Centre, Durham Road, Low Fell, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE9 5AR. Tel: 091-487 8892 (Voice and Minicom 5).

Closing date for applications: 22nd May 1990.

Traineeship funded by Charity Projects, The Tyne & Wear Foundation.



## TEACHER VACANCIES IN TOWER HAMLETS

## Tower Hamlets Education

BEATRICE TATE SCHOOL  
ST JUDES ROAD, LONDON E2  
TELEPHONE: 01-739 6249

**TEACHER**  
(Main Professional Grade IA'C'  
with specific responsibility for  
pupils with profound and multiple  
handicaps)

Headteacher: Christine Sibley  
Roll: 85 Group: 6S

Beatrice Tate is an all age school for pupils with severe learning difficulties, a high proportion of whom have additional sensory and motor impairment.

The school is organised in Junior and Senior Departments with a strong emphasis on topic work and in individualised independent learning. We are currently taking a leading role in developing access to the National Curriculum for SLD pupils.

Required from September 1990.  
IA'C' Teacher with specific responsibility for pupils with profound and multiple handicaps.

We are looking for a suitably experienced teacher to join our Management Team of six. Applicants should have a commitment to working collaboratively and an ability to motivate and co-ordinate whole school initiatives.

Closing Date 29 June 1990.  
Application forms and further details are obtainable from the Headteacher.

Tower Hamlets has transformed local Government by decentralising service delivery and accountability to seven Neighbourhoods.

What Tower Hamlets is achieving today others will attempt tomorrow.

The commitment, energy, drive and innovation of staff are essential to our success.

Tower Hamlets is committed to effective implementation of its Equal Opportunities Policy.

Applications are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post(s) regardless of sex, sexual orientation, religion, racial origin, marital status, disablement or age.

All jobs are open to jobshare unless otherwise stated.

The Councils recruitment and retention package could mean subsidised car leasing, a relocation package worth up to £6,000, bridging loan facilities, free life insurance, subsidised mortgage and travel allowance.

TOWER HAMLETS  
**EDUCATION**  
GETTING IT RIGHT

## Outreach Programme Co-ordinator for Papua New Guinea.

## TAKE OUT YOUR SKILL, BRING HOME THE EXPERIENCE.

VSO has an urgent request for an Outreach Programme Co-ordinator to work with the Port Moresby (Red Cross) Special Education Centre at Boroko in Papua New Guinea.

You would help develop an outreach programme for mentally and physically handicapped people living both in Port Moresby as well as in villages in surrounding areas. This involves identifying disabled people through contacts with health centres and community groups. You would be part of a team of three.

The job requires a broad knowledge of handicapped people. You should be a Registered Nurse of the Mentally Handicapped or a Special Education teacher - preferably with knowledge of physio and OCT skills.

For more details, please complete and return this advertisement to: Enquiries Unit, VSO, 317 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PN. Tel. 01-780 1331.

**Conditions of work:** ■ Pay based on local rates ■ Equipment and re-equipment grants ■ Rent-free accommodation usually provided ■ National Insurance and medical insurance paid ■ Language training provided where necessary ■ Return flight paid ■ Posts (always approved by our field staff) are for a minimum of two years. **Leave of absence:** ■ Health professionals employed by the NHS are entitled in principle to Leave of Absence for two years' voluntary service overseas - with minimal effect to their conditions of service and pension entitlement. Details from VSO Enquiries Unit.

I'm interested. I have the following training/experience:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**VSO**

Helping the Third World help itself.  
20p stamp appreciated. Charity no. 313757.

VSO is working in  
Antigua/Barbuda Anguilla  
Bangladesh Belize Bhutan  
China Dominica Egypt Fiji  
The Gambia Ghana Grenada  
Guinea-Bissau Guyana  
Indonesia Kenya Kiribati  
Liberia Malawi Malaysia  
Maldives Montserrat Nepal  
Nigeria Pakistan Papua New  
Guinea Philippines Sao Tome  
and Principe St. Kitts/Nevis  
St. Lucia St. Vincent  
Sierra Leone Solomon  
Islands Sri Lanka Sudan  
Tanzania Thailand Tonga  
Tunisia Uganda Vanuatu  
Zambia Zimbabwe.

## Development Planning

**ACCESS OFFICER**  
PO2. £17,118-£18,465

You will promote and work towards ensuring an accessible environment by providing practical and detailed advice, and assisting in removing the barriers to access faced by people with disabilities.

You will work on policy issues related to access across all of the Department's planning, transportation, economic development and building control services, and will prepare design guidance for the creation of such an accessible environment, working closely with applicants and people in the community.

You will have direct experience of disability, together with an understanding of how to initiate access projects and identify access needs in planning and building applications. We particularly welcome applications from suitably experienced people with disabilities.

Ref: D 002.

Closing date: 11th May, 1990.

## HOW TO APPLY

For further details and/or an application form please contact, quoting appropriate reference no.

01-748 8125 (24 hour answering service) or write to Staffing Section, Development Planning Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, W6 9JU.

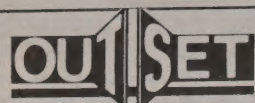
We welcome applications whatever your gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious beliefs or practices, age (up to 65 years), or trade union activities and from people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men.

**JOB SHARERS WELCOME.**

We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities as they are currently under-represented in this organisation.

**Hammersmith  
& Fulham**  
Serving our Community





Action on Disability

## OUTSET OFFICE SERVICES GLOBE TOWN

OOS is committed to increasing the number of employees with disabilities in the company. As part of this policy this post is only open to people with disabilities.

OOS Globe Town provides a full word processing and switchboard support service to the officers of the Globe Town Neighbourhood. We require an Administrator to oversee the running of the office under the direction of the Office Manager; to assist and deputise for the Supervisor/Trainer in the effective provision of this service.

If you have a disability and are keen to pursue a career using information technology, OOS's positive commitment to equal opportunities can work for you. Training will be given to the successful applicant. This post is initially funded for 12 months.

For further information, please contact: Eryl Foulkes, OOS Globe Town, 62 Roman Road, London E2 0PG. Tel: 081-980 8067. Closing date: May 21, 1990.



**Jacksons Lane**  
community centre

Archway Road, London N6 5BT (opposite Highgate Tube)  
01-340 5226

## THEATRE TRAINING TUTORS

Jacksons Lane's new theatre will be starting two training courses for people with disabilities in theatre skills. One will be in performance/workshop skills, the other in theatre technical skills. We are looking for outreach tutors to work with us in June/July 1990, and tutors to contribute to the training from September 1990 to July 1991. All tutors will work sessionally. Skills should include some of the following: ability to train in performance, workshop skills, technical work (eg lighting, sound), or outreach work.

We are especially eager to recruit tutors with disabilities and from ethnic minorities.

Please send c/v and application letter to Box T, Jacksons Lane Community Centre, Archway Road, London N6, 01 340 5226. By 4th May, interviews 9th May.

Jacksons Lane is working towards being an equal opportunities employer.

OUTSET

Action on Disability

Outset ITeC

## MICRO-COMPUTER HARDWARE TUTOR

Scale 6 - S01 (Scp 26-31)

£12,975-£15,132 (including LW)

Outset ITeC (Information Technology Centre) is a well-established Training Agency approved centre, which trains both disabled and able-bodied 16-21 year olds and adults. The applicant will be expected to design and run courses in basic electronics, programming and micro-computer hardware leading to recognised qualifications at various levels.

The successful candidate will have had experience of maintaining micro-computer equipment, programming (preferably in machine code) and will have a basic knowledge of digital electronics. They will also take an active part in the ITeC's various business services; including responsibility for the evaluation, installation and maintenance of computer equipment in-house and for external clients.

Formal teaching qualifications are not necessary for this post but good communication skills and enthusiasm are essential.

For further details, job description and application form (to be returned by May 18th, 1990) please contact Fred Wright on 01-692 7141 EXT 248, or write to Outset ITeC, Drake House, 18 Creekside, London SE8 3DZ.

Is the postcode on your DN label wrong? Please help us to save postage by returning your label with the correct postcode.

## Department of Development

### SENIOR PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT

£21,800 - £23,700

Ref. N378/DN

### ARCHITECT

£19,200 - £20,700

Ref. N379/DN

### SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN

£19,200 - £20,700

Ref. N380/DN

### ACCESS DESIGN OFFICER

£10,100 - £10,900

Ref. N381/DN

for 18 hour p.w. job share

The Architect's Division has a varied programme, including major new build projects.

We operate as a multi-disciplinary practice, including quantity surveyors, structural, mechanical and electrical engineers and landscape architects. We are working towards Quality Assurance, and have just introduced CAD.

If you are a newly qualified architect, or an experienced architect or technician, we offer: Interesting work, of direct benefit to local communities;

the opportunity to take full responsibility for your own projects, including client briefing and design stages;

congenial working conditions;

an attractive salary, flexitime, generous leave, casual user car allowance and other benefits; job sharing opportunities for all of the above posts. The Access Design Officer should preferably have a special interest in working with people with disabilities and the organisations that represents them.

Closing date: 29.5.90.

► Application forms and job description from Personnel Unit, Municipal Offices, The Ridgeway, London E4 6PS. Telephone: 01-531 8899 (24 hour answering service).

## Chief Executive's Department

### ACCESS DEVELOPMENT WORKER

£16,308 - £17,655 p.a. inc.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest wishes to appoint a disabled person, as an Access Development Worker, to improve and develop access facilities in the borough. You will work with two job-sharing Access Design Officers based in the

Architect's Division of the Department of Development.

You will work closely with people with disabilities on access issues. By increasing awareness of the needs, rights and wishes of people with disabilities, you will promote the creation of an accessible environment in which people with disabilities are able to play a full and active part. You will work to increase the direct participation of people with disabilities in access and planning issues and to enable Council Officers to consult directly with people with disabilities.

Although a member of the Chief Executive's Department, it is intended that you will be based in the office of the Waltham Forest Association for People with Disabilities at the local Disability Resource Centre. It is expected that this arrangement will facilitate direct contact with people with disabilities and their organisations in Waltham Forest. A major task will be to support and develop the local Access Group.

You will need to have an awareness of issues relating to disability and a commitment enabling people with disabilities to assume an independent role in society. Although a technical background is not necessary, knowledge of access issues and the relevant technical legislation is essential. You will need to demonstrate good organisational skills as well as an ability to undertake development work. You must show an understanding of the importance of good access for the successful implementation of policies designed to promote equal opportunities.

Applications are restricted to candidates having a physical, sensory or learning disability (registered or unregistered). Details of this post and the application form are available on tape.

Closing date: 21.5.90.

Ref: H365/DN

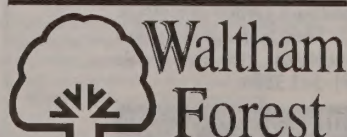
Further details and application forms are available from the Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF.

Tel: 01-531 8899 (24 hour answering service)

All posts are available for job share

*Waltham Forest is a multi-racial area and we are anxious to ensure this is reflected in our workforce. All applications for jobs are considered on merit with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities.*

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



**SOUTH GLAMORGAN  
DE MORGANNWG**

South Glamorgan County Council is keen to encourage people with disabilities to apply for its vacancies and applicants who meet the essential requirements of any post applied for will be guaranteed an interview if they have a disability.

For further information about jobs available with the County Council please contact:-

**Jill Nicholls**  
Personnel and Management Services Division  
Room 435  
South Glamorgan County Council  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff CF1 5UW.

## Leisure and Recreation

THE MASBRO CENTRE, MASBRO ROAD,  
LONDON W14 0LR

### MANAGER

Job Share (18 hrs)

PO1. £8,190-£8,766 pa

The Masbro Centre is a community based facility offering a wide range of recreational, educational and creative opportunities to its diverse user groups. Our facilities include arts rooms, pottery kiln, multi-use rooms, covered sports area, Youth Club, creche and cafe.

If you have a commitment to developing services in a creative way, forging links with community organisations and managing a multi-use centre then consider sharing these responsibilities with our current Manager.

Hours of work will be Wednesday 12pm-5pm, Thursday 9.30am-5.30pm and Friday 9.30am-5.30pm.

The Centre is accessible for people with restricted mobility, there is an access ramp and a lift.

We particularly welcome applications from black people and people with disabilities as they are currently under represented at this level within the organisation.

Ref: RACQ01 (HOC).

Closing date: 18th May 1990.

## HOW TO APPLY

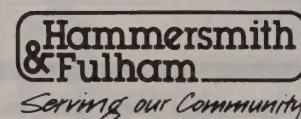
For further details and/or an application form please contact, quoting appropriate reference no.

01-748 5429 (24 hour answerphone) or write to Leisure and Recreation Department, 181 King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.

*We welcome applications whatever your gender, race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious beliefs or practices, age (up to 65 years), or trade union activities and from people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men.*

*JOB SHARERS WELCOME.*

*We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities as they are currently under-represented in this organisation.*



**NORTH EAST  
DERBYSHIRE**

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### DISABLED PERSONS ACCESS OFFICER

Scale 6 - SO1 £11,667 - £13,824

The Council has recently considered its position and level of commitment to disabled access throughout the community that it serves. In order to develop and progress ideas in this field, the position of Disabled Persons Access Officer has been established.

The successful person will be a communicator with a complete awareness of the needs and aspirations of disabled people.

The officer would be expected to advise all sections of Planning, Building Control and the Building Professional, on solutions to problems associated with statutory legislation requirements. In addition, liaison with local access groups, advice to the public and other Council Departments together with the preparation of reports on building upgrading would all form part of the day-to-day work.

Applicants should be qualified to HNC/Degree level and have an understanding of construction, preferably holding a relevant professional qualification. Applications from suitable disabled persons are welcome, and all information provided by the applicants will be treated as confidential.

The offices of the Authority are situated in the Town Centre of Chesterfield and the District offers a great many opportunities for the enjoyment of leisure, interesting places to visit, entertainment, and sporting activities, whilst housing is at a reasonable cost.

The Council operates flexible working hours and offers a re-location package of up to £3,500 for those required to move into the District.

Application forms may be obtained from the Director of Planning, North East Derbyshire District Council, Council House, Saltergate, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 1LF. Telephone Chesterfield (0246) 231111 ext 2444. For further information please contact Malcolm Clinton (Building Surveyor) on ext 2412.

Closing date - 21 May 1990.

**JOB SHARE AVAILABLE**

**DEFENDING JOBS AND SERVICES**



## SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TRAINEE SOCIAL WORKERS

Scale 3 £8181 – £8787

Applications are invited to fill four vacancies in our trainee scheme. Applicants will be required to have the equivalent of two years' full time work or voluntary experience in a related area of work. We would particularly welcome applications from members of black or other ethnic minority groups and people with disabilities, as these groups are currently under represented within the Social Services Department. Section 38 (1)(b) Race Relations Act 1976 applies.

Trainees will spend one year in the Department prior to undertaking secondment to professional training.

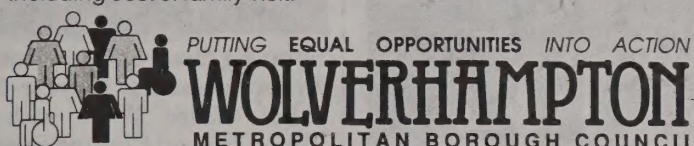
Applications from Director of Social Services, Civic Centre, St. Peter's Square, Wolverhampton.  
Telephone: 27811 extension 5332.

Closing Date: 10 May 1990.

Job Sharers welcome. Upon employment, employees will be encouraged to join an appropriate Trade Union.

★ Generous relocation scheme of up to £3000 for removal, disturbance and legal and estate agent etc., fees.

★ Generous subsistence allowances available for up to 6 months, including cost of family visit.



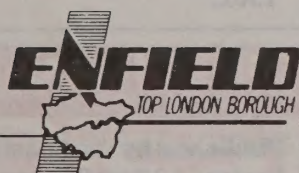
## WORK IN ENFIELD — FOR ENFIELD

Working for your Local Authority is your chance to serve your community.

Advertisements for vacancies in the London Borough of Enfield can be found in the local press as well as the national press and specialist and professional publications when appropriate.

A weekly list of vacancies is displayed at all borough libraries and a copy can be collected from reception at the Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield.

As an EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES employer we welcome applications from all sections of the community.



An equal opportunities employer

Deadlines for June issue: booking by 11 May, camera ready artwork/copy by 16 May.

### CONFERENCE

Family Based Respite Care, PLANNING FOR PARTNERSHIP. Speakers: June Thoburn, senior lecturer in social work, "The Children Act and family based respite care"; Jill Pitkeathley, director Carers' National Association, "NHS and Community Care Bill". Ten workshops covering topics such as: recruiting carers for a variety of needs; parents or professionals – whose scheme is it?; payments and benefits. 16 July 1990. Nottingham University. Contact: C Orlik, N.A.F.B.R.C., Norah Fry Research Centre, 32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1PY. Tel: (0272) 238566.

If you would like DN on tape, or know anyone else who would, contact Gayle Mooney on 071-636 5020 ext 244.

### FAMILY WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Volunteers needed to accompany us on our holiday with families with a disabled child.

Tel: 071-371 5004

### CENTRAL MOBILITY

Nearly new, battery cars, scooters and electric wheelchairs, bought and sold throughout the country.

For further information and advice contact us anytime on

021 366 6796

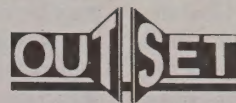


For people with disabilities and caring, understanding able bodied persons Ladies should not be shy of applying!

All enquiries to: HANDICATE  
The Wellington Centre  
52 Chevallier Street  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB  
Telephone: (0473) 226950

## TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Manager, Jonathan Wine, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Telephone: 071-252 1362. Fax: 071-237 8019.



## COMPUTER TRAINER

OUTSET Wandsworth offers training in the use of computers and other modern office skills to people with a disability. Our training centre in Balham operates a ten station LAN using Novell Software and trains principally in MultiMate, WordPerfect, Lotus 123, Sage and Dbase in a DOS environment. We are currently looking for an experienced Computer Trainer to take responsibility for the quality and delivery of training at the centre. Essential requirements include a good knowledge of DOS in addition to a comprehensive knowledge of either MultiMate or WordPerfect. The post offers an excellent opportunity to contribute as part of team to the continuing development of a successful and effective training programme.

Salary (SO2) Point 32 £15,954 incl. ILW.

For more details and an application form please contact Lorraine Hellen, OUTSET WANDSWORTH, 1b, Yukon Road, London SW12 9PZ. Tel: 081-673 7235.

Closing date: 21st May 1990

OUTSET particularly welcomes applications from people with disabilities, in order to continue its policy of increasing their representation at senior levels. OUTSET is an equal opportunities employer with fully accessible premises.

## Disability Now

The campaigning newspaper for people with all kinds of disabilities



Please SUPPORT DN by SUBSCRIBING NOW

### DISABILITY NOW ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Please return this form to Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ with your remittance made payable to THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

Disability and/or profession \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick

- ☐ Individual at home address £6  
☐ Organisations/authorities etc £10  
☐ Overseas £10 Sterling  
☐ Disabled people on low income, free  
☐ Multiples \_\_\_ copies £\_\_\_

Multiple copies annually: 10-50 copies a month, £75; 51-100 copies, £100

- ☐ Official VAT Invoice needed  
☐ Bankers Order form needed

I/We enclose ☐ Cheque/P.O.

☐ A donation towards costs £\_\_\_

I authorise you to charge my ☐ VISA ☐ ACCESS

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please give name and address on ACCESS/VISA if different from above

Disability Now is a non-profit publication. Receipts on request. Sorry, no refunds.

## Engineering Studies

New Course

Access Course in Engineering Studies – September 1990

### ACCESS TO ENGINEERING DEGREE COURSES

The course is a general preparation for and provides access to engineering degree courses.

It has been specially designed for applicants with a disability and is a full-time course of one or two years depending upon the applicant's experience and needs.

Application from mature candidates is welcome. Formal engineering qualifications are not needed but some knowledge of Mathematics and Physics would be an advantage.

The course is pre-degree level study and will give access to those engineering degree courses e.g. Coventry Polytechnic's BEng Engineering (Combined Engineering Studies) which do not require practical 'hands-on' experience with heavy engineering machinery. The emphasis throughout the course is upon the application of new technological solutions to the traditional problems of engineering.

The National College for Students  
with Physical and Sensory Disabilities

Contact: R. CLEMO, Hereward College of Further Education  
Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW  
Telephone: (0203) 461231 Fax: (0203) 694305

### Course Content:

There are SIX modules:-

1. Communication and study skills
2. Mathematics
3. Technological studies
4. Mechanical science
5. Physical science
6. Electrical science

Each module is internally assessed. The whole course is externally moderated and validated.

"This exciting development opens up new opportunities in engineering which is an area of great potential for people with a disability. The Access Course in Engineering Studies provides a foundation of skill and knowledge and a qualification for entry to higher education. It offers the option of a career in industry in areas of skills shortages."

R. Clemo – Course Co-ordinator

### Facilities:

- Single and twin residential rooms
- 24 hr care and nursing support
- Individual study support
- National ACCESS centre
- Supported self study centre
- Careers and higher education facilities



Hereward  
COLLEGE



# Blindness will increase, opticians warn

Thousands of people could face blindness because they will not pay for eye tests, opticians warned last month.

Free tests were abolished last April, at a saving to the Government of £70 million. But recent polls show that the number of eye tests has dropped by a third since then. Opticians fear that sight and even life threatening conditions will go undetected.

A members' poll of the Association of Optometrists and the

British College of Optometrists, estimates that in 1989 four million fewer people had eye tests than in 1988.

Opticians estimate that there may be more than 200,000 people with a harmful eye condition which has been missed. Of these, opticians say, there could be 20,000 people with cataracts, 19,000 with glaucoma, and 10,000 with diabetes. All these conditions can cause blindness.

People on a low income, stu-

dents, people suffering from diabetes or glaucoma and their relatives, people on family credit and those who need complex lenses can get a free test.

But the Royal National Institute for the Blind says that people on low incomes are most vulnerable. Their MORI poll found that this group were twice as likely to be deterred from seeking eye tests than the better off.

Ian Bruce, RNIB director general, said: "The Government

must recognise the especial folly of charging pensioners, who are most vulnerable to blinding diseases which can be treated if caught early."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said the Government would wait for the results of its own survey, expected this summer. The DoH believes many people rushed to get a free eye test before the April deadline and this could be one reason for the drop in figures.



**Sporting chance.** Boxer Frank Bruno presents 17-year-old skier Claire Wake with a Young Up and Coming Sports Person award and a £1,500 bursary at the Yardley Gold Cup Awards in March. Claire, an amputee, came second in the Downhill in last year's Swiss Ski Championships and aims to compete in the 1992 Paralympics.

Twenty-four year-old swimmer Paul Noble, who won three gold and four silver medals in the 1988 Paralympics, also received an award. CP swimmer Robin Surgeoner presented the British Sports Association for the Disabled with the charity award.

**Ring the changes!**  
From 6 May DN's telephone number will change to 071-636 5020. Jonathan Wine's number, for advertising enquiries, will change to 071-252 1362.

## DisabilityNow

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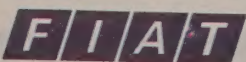
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